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ON THE THRESHOLD OF SOCIALISM.

If Lord Bramwell has time to spare to consider the growth of the popular protest in America against the American system of Trusts, he must feel profoundly miserable. Even less vehement opponents of Socialism than he may feel some alarm at the headlong way in which a system based on unrestricted private competition is plunging into Socialism of a very pronounced type. For our part we are not alarmed, only interested and curious. Unless there is a sudden check it seems as if the nationalization, or, at least, the municipalization, of the means of production were likely to be brought about by simply leaving the other system to work out its own growth to its ultimate development. The American Trust system, which President Cleveland regards with unutterable hatred and which his opponents, with the exception of Mr. Blaine, vie with him in denouncing, lands us on the threshold of Socialism. It is the nationalization of the means of production not for the benefit of the nation but for the benefit of the members of the Ring, or "combine," in other words, of the private capitalists who combine together to secure for themselves all the benefit of a monopoly and to deprive the public of all the advantages of competition. As soon as it has been proved that modern facilities of communication have rendered this possible, and experience shows that the human intelligence has been so adjusted to our new conditions as to render the successful management of such concerns practicable, the community seems likely to abandon in despair the effort to secure an unattainable competition and establish the State in the place of the Trust. But an illustration taken from the actual facts will make this plainer than any amount of explanation.

The American cotton-growers require about 45 million yards of jute bagging every year in which to pack their cotton. Prices having for some time past tended downwards, it was decided to try to form a Trust to secure a monopoly which could force up prices. This was the origin of the Cotton Bagging Trust whose affairs are now under examination before the House Committee on Manufactures at Washington. The production of this bagging was last year in the hands of fifteen firms. Eight firms, manufacturing two-thirds of the total output, united in a Trust, the members of which signed an agreement to act together as to the quantity produced, and the price to be demanded. A firm in New York was adopted as the centre of correspondence and to this firm all the cotton-bagging made by members of the Trust was to be sold and delivered. The profits and the losses of the parties had to be shared in proportion. The price was fixed by the majority of members, and having in their possession two-thirds of the bagging-producing power of the States, they raised prices from 7¼ cents to 9½ cents last July, and subsequently increased it to 11 cents. Two-thirds of all the cotton-bagging in the Republic is therefore controlled by a single centre of correspondence in New York, which decides how much shall be made, and at what price it shall be sold, entirely in the interests of the members of the Trust. So far there is nothing about the Trust to distinguish it from other great combinations of manufacturers, and we only refer to the bagging industry as a case in which, owing to the limited number of firms engaged, it is possible to secure a central control over two-thirds of the whole output. This is the simplest and the first form of the "Combine." In order to give permanency and strength to the organization, Trust certificates amounting often to several times the original value of their capital are issued to the capitalists who unite to form the monopoly. The local management continues, but it is subject to central control. The directors of the Trust, having the whole of the combined capital in their hands, can close mills at their discretion—for the Trust certificates may rise in value by the closing of half the mills for which they are issued—or restrict the production as they please.

But, it will be asked, why do not outsiders compete with the Trust? For the same reason that Mr. Chamberlain got a monopoly of the screw trade. When a Trust has been formed, it seeks to kill out competition. It has resources sufficient to bear down any private competitors. As it can afford to close mills and pay dividends on the capital they represent, so it can afford to sell goods under cost price so as to drive the other firms into submission or out of the field. To all such it offers the alternative of incorporation or ruin. The only resource of the threatened firms is to form a counter-trust, by which, of course, competition can be kept up in a fashion. But in the end the fighting Trusts are apt to amalgamate, and then the monopoly becomes complete. Underselling is not the only weapon by which a Trust can kill out competition. Boycotting is freely resorted to. One Trust allies itself with another Trust for offensive and defensive purposes. In short, the work of centralization is going on at railway speed. Now, it is evident that if the direction of the affairs of a Trust controlling all the means of production of any given article is not beyond the power of a board of directors acting in the interests of the amalgamated capital of the associated producers, it will be within the compass of a National Board acting in the interest of the community at large. Hitherto the chief practical objection to the Socialist suggestion has been the impossibility of securing effective practical business management over the nationalized means of production. But if that has been surmounted in the case of a monopoly co-extensive with a State which is run for the benefit of the capitalist, it cannot be insurmountable in the case of a monopoly created in the interest of the whole community. The great moral objection that it would cripple individuality and limit private enterprise may still hold good as against a really free system of competition, but it cannot do so against the system of capitalists' Trusts.

THE CULTURE OF HEROISM.—I.

An Interview with the Secretary of the Royal Humane Society.

Few things are more valuable among the ingredients which constitute the salt of human society than the habit of heroism. By the habit of heroism we mean the instinctive exercise of self-sacrificing courage at the call of duty, as opposed to the self-regarding instinct which leads a man to subordinate everything to the safety of his own skin. This quality, like any other human characteristic, is capable of cultivation, and it is not a wise State which concentrates all its premiums upon the making of money while neglecting the much more important matter of the cultivation of the higher soul. In England we have not entirely ignored the necessity of fostering this instinct, but there is no general comprehensive system by which acts of bravery are recognized and rewarded by the State. In a tentative way, however, we are feeling towards it; and, as the first step towards the completion of such a system, it may be well to pass in review the more or less fragmentary attempts that have been made up till now for the recognition and reward of this virtue. Of such attempts, the oldest, and the most important in many ways, is that which has been in existence now for 114 years under the title of the Royal Humane Society, which was instituted as far back as 1774. After the Royal Humane Society—*longo intervallo*—comes the institution of the Victoria Cross, which is exclusively confined to the reward of deeds of exceptional valour performed on the field of battle. After the Victoria Cross may be mentioned the system which prevails at the Board of Trade of presenting chronometers, telescopes, or other honoraria to those who have shown heroism in rescuing shipwrecked crews at sea; and in the same category comes the Royal Lifeboat Institution. The fourth place is occupied by the Society for the Protection of Life and Property from Fire, and the fifth by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which supplies "first aid" to the injured in case of street accidents and rewards those who render distinguished service to sufferers. Each of these institutions has a long and brilliant record of persons who have not counted their lives dear unto them if so be that they could rescue their fellow-creatures from impending death.

In the midst of a world that too often seems taken up with the absorbing pursuit of its own selfish material interests it will be very profitable to turn aside for a moment to scan the annals of these institutions and to realize for a moment how much genuine and sterling worth there is in the midst of us, which for the most part is unrecognized and unknown. The Royal Humane Society was not established originally for the purpose of cultivating heroism. It was originally more of a scientific association formed for the purpose of combating the popular prejudice against saving people from death who had lost consciousness in the water. It seems strange, but nothing is better established in history, that a hundred years ago the English folk shared much of the prejudice which many savages entertain against the rescue of men from drowning. To combat this prejudice the founder of the Society, Dr. Hawes, began to offer rewards to those who would rescue the bodies of drowned persons between London and Westminster Bridges, in order that experiments might be tried for their resuscitation. The project was ridiculed at first, as all good projects are, but he persevered, and after some months succeeded in proving that he had

brought back to life many inanimate persons who would otherwise have died. A society was then formed of thirty-two persons, which continues to flourish to the present day, under the title of the Royal Humane Society. The objects of this society, as given in their report, are to collect and circulate the most approved and effectual methods for recovering persons apparently drowned or dead; to provide suitable apparatus in and around the metropolis for rescuing persons from drowning; to bestow rewards for the preservation and restoration of life; and to encourage swimming exercises at public schools and training ships with reference to saving life from drowning.

With the preventive work of the society we need not concern ourselves at present. Every one is familiar with the boatmen who are in daily attendance at the Serpentine during the bathing season and with the icemen who attend in Hyde Park and elsewhere during the few winter days in which skating is possible in or near London. The society has also drags and other apparatus at most of the metropolitan police stations, the Thames district stations, and the Medway, the River Lea, and on the various canals in and about London, but the branch of the society's work which comes under the subject of this article is that which deals with the rewards for the saving of life, and a representative of the *Pall Mall Gazette* waited upon Captain Home, at the offices of the society, 4, Trafalgar-square, to hear at headquarters how the society is getting on, and what are the views of those engaged in its management. Captain Home has served in the army in India and elsewhere, and for the last eight or nine years has been practically the life and soul of the society.

"How is the society getting on?" said he cheerily, as he gave his visitor a seat; "its work is growing every year. Last year we inquired into no fewer than 467 cases, in which attempts, successful or unsuccessful, had been made to save life from drowning, and no fewer than 533 persons were rewarded by the society."

"How many persons did they save?"

"The 533 persons saved 540 other persons, who would have been drowned but for their exertions. They failed to save 36 who were drowned. This year's statistics, of course, have not come in, but we shall probably not have so many. Last year's number was the largest on record."

"Why not so many this year?"

"Because the weather has been so bad. The wetter the weather the fewer people are drowned. The apparent paradox is capable of very simple explanation: it is only in fine hot days that people take to the water, hence this July, which was one of the wettest on record, we have only had seventy cases, as against over a hundred in July of the two preceding years."

"Do you limit your operations," I asked, "to rescues or attempted rescues from drowning?"

"As a rule, yes; but we recognize all cases of exceptional bravery in rescuing or attempting to rescue persons from asphyxia in mines, wells, blast-furnaces, or in sewers, where foul gas may endanger life."

"Practically, then, you ignore all risk of death excepting that from drowning and suffocation?"

"Yes; many attempts have been made to extend the scope of the society, and there is hardly a week passes in which we do not get applications from persons who have risked their lives in stopping runaway horses in the streets, but we have hitherto found that it was impossible to deal with that branch of the subject. Other societies can do that; we stick to our original idea."

"Can you explain to me the *modus operandi* of your society?"

"Oh, certainly," he said. "When any one has been saved from drowning, or when any gallant attempt has been made to rescue any one from death by drowning or suffocation, a report is sent in to us. We do not seek them out; we depend entirely upon volunteered information. If the case occurs in the navy it must be brought to us by the Admiralty. We take no notice of any case unless information is laid within two months of its occurrence if it takes place in the United Kingdom, or eighteen months if it occurs in India or the colonies."

"Suppose I come and report that I have saved a man from drowning at Charing-cross, will you take my statement?"

"No. We only proceed on written information, and in every case we require, whenever it is possible, the evidence of eye-witnesses."

"What particulars do you require?"

"Here is our bill of particulars," said Captain Home, handing over a foolscap sheet of instructions to applicants for the rewards of the society. The particulars required, beyond the necessary details as to name, address, age, &c., are—

Time of day, date, and place at which the accident occurred, with exact particulars of how the accident happened, and in what manner the person was reached.

If in a river, state its breadth and depth and whether any tide or stream was running.

If in a canal, lake, pond, or reservoir, its breadth, depth, and size.

The distance from the shore or bank of the spot where the rescue took place, and the depth at that spot, with any other particulars explanatory of the cause of the accident.

If the case occurred at sea, state the nature of the wind, weather and sea, speed of the vessel, whether under sail, or steam, or both.

Was a life-belt or any available appliance used in the rescue?

The precise nature of the risk incurred by the salvor or salvors.

How long the person rescued had been in the water, and his state when rescued.

Where taken to; who was sent for: who came; what was then done; and what kind of treatment was adopted?

When these particulars are all filled in, and the evidence taken from the witnesses of the occurrence, the application has to be verified by the commanding or other superior officer, if it applies to the army, navy, merchant service, or constabulary."

"Do you have many applications from these services?"

"Yes; last year we rewarded 533 persons; of these 48 rewards went to the navy, 36 to the army, and 46 to the police, so that about one-fourth of the rewards were so disposed of."

"What rewards do you issue?"

"We have seven different kinds of rewards. All rewards are voted by the committee. The pecuniary reward is limited to cases which occur within thirty miles of London. Of these we issued last year 41. The most common form of reward is that of a testimonial inscribed on vellum or on parchment, according to the degree of merit of the case. The vellum testimonial is superior to the parchment. Of the vellum we issued 198 last year, and of the parchment 141. Before the testimonials, come the medals. These are granted by the committee, who last year distributed 140 bronze medals and 7 clasps. The clasps are given to medallists who already hold one medal, and who therefore cannot receive another of the same order. The most distinguished rewards are the silver medals, of which last year we issued six; while the prize of all is the Stanhope Gold Medal, which is given for the case exhibiting the greatest gallantry during the year."

"Do your medallists wear the medals?"

"Certainly; and there are special regulations by the Admiralty and by the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief sanctioning the wearing of the medals and clasps of the society on the right breast by men in uniform."

"Who got your gold medal last year?"

"A gentleman of the name of Mr. Hedley Hill, who last October jumped into the Avon, near Bristol, and saved the life of a girl who had walked into the river by mistake. The current was running very rapidly; he had no time to take off his clothes; the night was pitch dark, and it was with the greatest difficulty that he succeeded in bringing her to the bank. The committee thought that, taking all things together, it was the gallantest deed of all those which were brought under their notice."

"And your silver medallists?"

"One of them, you will be interested in knowing, was a girl of fifteen; she leaped into the lake at Neuchatel, and rescued two children who were drowning. We often have cases in which women have saved life, but, of course, the immense majority of those with which we have to deal relate to deeds performed by men. Another lady, for instance, in last year's list, was a Canadian girl, Miss Florence Green, who rescued George Green from drowning in the St. Lawrence at Lechine Rapids, on the last day of last year. With all our exertions, we do not save 20 per cent. of the number of people who are actually drowned every year in England and Wales. It is rather curious that, notwithstanding the increase in the population, the number of persons drowned shows hardly any increase in the last twenty-five years. In 1864, for instance, there were more persons drowned than in 1885, and ten years ago there were 3,659 persons drowned, whereas last year there were only 2,805, We have nothing to do with any rescues which come within the charter of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution."

"Are there any other societies like your own?"

"Oh, yes; we have branches at Brighton and St. Leonard's; there is a Humane Society at Liverpool and a Royal Humane Society has been established for Australia and New Zealand."

"What does it cost to carry on the operations of your society?"

"Our balance-sheet," said Captain Home, "shows an expenditure of about £1,500, but of course most of this is not spent in the culture of heroism. There is the whole cost of the *honoraria* and pecuniary rewards, which last year was £259; so that on the whole our rewards do not come to more than about 10*s.* apiece. The gold medal costs £10, but that is specially provided for by £400 invested for the purpose."

"What is your medal like?"

"Here is the medal," said he. "It is about the size of half a crown, and represents a little boy blowing at a torch which has just gone out, and bears a Latin inscription signifying 'Peradventure a little spark may yet lie hid.' On the reverse of the medal is a civic wreath with the inscription, 'He has obtained this reward for having saved the life of a citizen. The Royal Humane Society presented this gift for saving life.'"

"What are your subscriptions?"

"Most of our income is derived from the interest on legacies which have been left us. Our donations and subscriptions last year amounted to £284, and we should of course be very glad if we received greater support from the public, which would enable us to extend the scope and operations of the society."

So far our interview.

There would be no lack of public support if the public rightly understood the nature of the operations of this society; but among the many virtues of the Royal Humane Society there is not included the supreme virtue of blowing its own trumpet. Its last year's report, containing records of nearly 500 cases in which men have ventured their lives to save their fellows, is so condensed as to lose all sensational interest. The stories of these 467 cases, or even a dozen of them, told by the hand of a master would undo the purse-strings of the charitable public all over England; but there is no attempt at writing them up. They simply succeed, as in a ledger, entry after entry, such as—

Case.		*Awards.*
23,372	Colonel A. E. England, at great personal risk, rescued Mrs. Whitworth from drowning at Somerton, Oxfordshire, on the 1st of December, 1886	Bronze Medal.
23,373	Charles Henry Smith, waterman, at great personal risk, rescued Bombardier Thomas Birtwistle, R.M.A., from drowning at Portsea, on the 12th of December, 1886.	Bronze Clasp.
23,374	John Bacon, aged fourteen, fisherboy, at great personal risk, rescued Charles F. Turbitt from drowning at Portstewart, co. Derry, on the 24th of October, 1886.	Bronze Medal.

There are sixty-eight pages of similar entries, a kind of pemmican of human heroism. All that the society needs to do to fill its coffers is to select a dozen of its best cases and get their story set forth in vivid life-like colours. This would be not only good for the institution, but it would immensely increase the impulse to do heroic deeds.

LAWLESS GOVERNMENT IN IRELAND.

A SPECIMEN. BY JOHN PAGE HOPPS.

A WEEK or two ago the newspapers published a telegram of a dozen lines announcing that the Government had suppressed the board of guardians at Ballinasloe, and that it had violently dispersed a meeting of the ratepayers called to consider the matter. Since then little or nothing has been heard of it; but the incident seemed so grossly inconsistent with the pet declaration of the Government that Ireland is ruled as England is ruled, that I have taken some trouble to get at the facts, as one more object-lesson which may be instructive to "Britons" who "never shall be slaves."

The properly elected guardians of Ballinasloe, it appears, had ideas of their own about out-door relief which were not in harmony with ideas at present in fashion at the Local Government Board, or, what is more likely, at the Irish Office; so the guardians were simply sent away and their places were taken by salaried men sent by the Government, for whose services the ratepayers will be fined £500 a year. That, in brief, is the whole story, unless it is necessary to add that the elected guardians, just before their suppression, had elected to the vice-chair one of Mr. Balfour's "criminals." But no one should be surprised at that, because Mr. Balfour's "criminals" are, as a rule, the people who in England would be our most useful public men. At all events, that is the view taken by most Irishmen, and by many Englishmen who go to Ireland to see. But we must admit that it is hard on Mr. Balfour to be thwarted in this way. It is enough to make any man of his build angry, or even spiteful. But the sequel and the moral of the story do not turn upon the elected guardians being right and wise or wrong and foolish. The mere fact that the elected board of guardians was dissolved, and that a salaried board had been forced into its place, whose salaries the ratepayers would have to pay, gave the ratepayers a right to meet together to consider the matter. At all events, we in England would think so, and sharply too.

The meeting was duly called, but the Government, apparently disliking to be contradicted, caused the usual information to be laid; and the resident magistrate issued his "proclamation" forbidding the meeting, and closing all inns, public-houses, refreshment houses, &c., for four days! The reason assigned was that the meeting was an "interference with and resistance to the administration and enforcement of the law," and that a "riot or tumult" was expected; the honest truth being that the people were all of one mind, and that the only possible breakers of the law were the police. This precious proclamation ended with the words "God save the Queen"—a fact which may throw some light on the inability or disinclination of Irishmen to revel in the tune which goes by that name. An important deputation went to the magistrate to put the matter right, but he refused to listen, contenting himself with the following three concise speeches: "I will hold no further parley; but I will not allow a meeting to be held;" "I will not allow a meeting to be held;" "I cannot listen to any more." And he didn't!

An attempt was made to hold the meeting. Five clergymen, two members of Parliament, and many of the leading men of the town, were present. They were at once attacked by the police, and beaten with batons. One gentleman was flung from the platform, and thrown to the floor, upon his face. The clergymen were pushed from the platform; and those who ventured to attend the meeting were beaten with batons. The meeting was successfully suppressed; the only wonder being that a riot was not the result, as the responsible magistrate had calculated. That it did not occur is attributable to the excellent behaviour of the clergymen present, who did their best to appease the people, and to leave with the disorder-provoking authorities the sufficient penalty of the odium attaching to their own despotic conduct.

At a banquet held the same evening, the moral was drawn in some clever, witty, and temperate speeches. "The people have been treated in a savage and brutal manner," said one speaker. "The humblest people were beaten and trampled upon by the police, who in every other country are used for the purpose of preserving the peace and protecting good citizens; but in Ireland it is the reverse: the police are put over us as janissaries and instruments of tyranny, to oppress, strike down, bludgeon, and abuse the very people whom in every other country they would be bound to protect. If we had self-government, if the people were allowed to manage their own affairs, the country would be happy and contented, like other self-governed countries." Other speakers referred to the brutal violence of the police, and protested against the attempt to prevent the public expression of opinion on a matter concerning no one but the ratepayers themselves.

There is no need to draw conclusions. This plain story is only told as "a specimen." It illustrates what is being done all over Ireland; and the time has fully come for pushing home, right and left, the inquiry whether Englishmen like this pottering at played-out despotism. If they do, they have sadly degenerated, and it will not be long before they may be made sick of it by having it brought nearer home. But if they do not like it, they have only one thing left to do—they must make up their minds to sweep the gang of coercion-mongers out of the road.

The Council of the University College, Dundee, met yesterday, and appointed Mr. Patrick Geddes, of Edinburgh, to be professor of botany, and Mr. Andrew Paterson, lecturer ta Owens College, Manchester, to be professor of anatomy. These chairs were only recently founded by the merchants of Dundee.

A NOVEL BY MRS. MOLESWORTH.*

MRS. MOLESWORTH has done well in letting the "grown-ups" have a share in the good things which she commonly reserves for the children. In "The Third Miss St. Quentin" she works on lines which have already been used by one of the most graceful tale-writers of this generation. Every one will remember the happy way in which Miss Thackeray translated, so to speak, fairy tales into the language of common life, and made us feel that even now there may be a Jack the Giant-Killer or a Cinderella. It is no small success even for the author of "Carrots" and "Four Winds Farm" to suggest such a comparison and yet not to suffer by it. Ella St. Quentin is a modern Cinderella, but with a difference. Nothing, indeed, could be happier than the way in which Mrs. Molesworth at once keeps and adapts the old accessories of the story. There is one of those terrible drawing-room games from which most of us at one time or another have suffered, which consists in bringing together in the compass of a few verses some utterly incongruous things. It might seem to be just such a puzzle to combine in a tale of modern life the well-known "properties" of Cinderella. Mrs. Molesworth does it with great ingenuity. If we do not have the pumpkin turned into a coach, and mice made into horses, yet we find the two elder sisters, the godmother, who is at least as clever and as benevolent as a fairy, the ball, seemingly so unattainable yet suddenly made possible, the slipper, the sooty marks of the scullion's work, and, of course and above all, the Prince. But Ella, as we said, is Cinderella with a difference. She is not a persecuted heroine, kept out of her rights by the jealousy of her elders, but a wilful little creature, who quite misunderstands her true situation, and fancies herself a victim when she really has been treated with the utmost kindness and consideration. Perhaps the weak point of the story is the way in which it is contrived that Ella should remain in ignorance of her real circumstances. She is the half-sister of Madeline and Ormine St. Quentin, and her father has lost in some foolish speculation all his fortune. Accordingly, while her half-sisters are rich, she is poor. This doubtless is an uncomfortable state of things, but it seems a very strange way of remedying it to send her away from her home for eleven years. For the plot it serves admirably, for she grows up in ignorance of the family history, but it could hardly occur in real life. That the girl should have been taken charge of by an aunt is, of course, possible; but surely the idea of the aunt "keeping the child entirely to herself all these years," so entirely that she is an absolute stranger to her sisters, is scarcely less than preposterous. Still, the ignorance is an essential part of the story, and had to be managed somehow; and effective results can seldom be attained without some little straining of probabilities. If there must be such straining, it is well to have it over at the beginning of the story. Probably few readers will notice, and fewer still will care for, a fault so slight in so charming a story.

NEW BOOKS.

"A FRESHWATER YARN."

"A Freshwater Yarn." (Elliot Stock.) What could be more depressing to a reader than to encounter a title-page such as this: "Ye True and Veracious Log of ye Boats *Fury* and *Kate*, while on an Exploring Expedition on ye River Avon, done by ye Officers (and Crew) in Charge thereof, viz., Brown, Jones, and Robinson, *et.*"? This is supposed to be funny, and this is the kind of humour which we meet on every page. Now it is not possible that any human being should feel any pleasure in reading such stuff. Why, then, do we have it? Simply from some supposed exigencies of the publishing business. Mr. R. L. Stevenson might tell us of his travels on the Avon or anywhere else, and never cease to charm. But the author of "A Freshwater Yarn" should have been content with an itinerary, giving distances between the various locks and portages, notes about difficulties to be surmounted and dangers to be avoided, information about inns and such like matters. Why not a map of the navigable Avon (the Warwickshire Avon, it must be understood) on the plan of a well-known map of the Thames? The writer has genuine information to give his readers—information, too, which would be very welcome some year when we are blessed with a summer; but he has put it in the least desirable form that could be imagined.

A BOOK FOR ATHLETES.

"The Science and Art of Training." By Henry Hoole, M.D. (Trübner and Co.) Dr. Hoole deals sufficiently both with the science and the art of his subject. The trainers to whom some of us may have been subjected in our youth knew only of the art, and very little of that. The captain of a college eight, for instance, would have the one Procrustean rule of as much beef or mutton as one could swallow, a quart of liquid only in the day (a short allowance for a nine-stone "bow" and simple torment for a thirteen-stone "No. 5"), and no tobacco, unless he happened to be himself a smoker. Now all this is changed: the rules in the book before us are rational and moderate, and founded on principle, on the composition of food, and the requirements of the body. No one could object to the scheme of life propounded on p. 112, unless, of course, he happened to have some business or study to which he must attend. But, in that case, he should not think of being an athlete. "Severe exercise from 8.30 to 11" leaves little or no change out of the working part of a day. But then this is not a book for students. Those who run or row seldom read, though there have been, and probably are, broad-shouldered Platos who contrive to combine the two things.

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* "The Third Miss St. Quentin." By Mrs. Molesworth. (Hatchards.)

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We commend President Carnot's cheery little speech at Cherbourg yesterday to the despairing admirals who are quite certain the House of Commons will never vote enough money to give us an efficient navy. President Carnot said :—

> The Government is fully conscious of the reliance it can place upon our admirable navy, and the officers who so ably command it. The Chambers are also thoroughly convinced of it. You may be fully assured that the Legislature will never hesitate to make every sacrifice requisite to secure its fullest efficiency. That, however, is not the conviction of the Government and the Chambers only ; it is that of the whole country.

If the French are capable of this on behalf of their Navy, which is rather a luxury than a necessity, dare any one accuse the English of being less ready to make the sacrifices necessary for the maintenance of the Service which is with us indispensable for the existence of our Empire?

The result of the German naval manœuvres is said to be the establishment of the fact that the harbour of Jahde is impregnable against any attack from the sea. The French are strengthening Cherbourg. Have we any military ports or naval harbours which can by any stretch of the imagination be said to be impregnable? If we have, where are they? And in what kind of a position should we find ourselves if, let us say in the Channel, we had not a single lair into which our fleet could retreat to refit, coal, and rest free from all danger of the enemy's torpedo boats?

British New Guinea has very rapidly developed from the position of a protectorate into that of a possession. The first Commissioner of the Protectorate, Major-General Scratchley, was appointed October 23, 1884. On September 12, 1888, it was formally declared part and parcel of the British Dominions. The new colony is held under the New Guinea Act of November, 1887, by which New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland each contribute £5,000 a year for ten years to the cost of its administration. We shall await the result of Dr. Macgregor's assumption of power with great interest.

There was a remarkable unanimity of optimism in the discussions at the British Association yesterday on the population question. So far from showing any leaning to the so-called Neo-Malthusianism, the speakers did not even endorse the theory of the real Malthusianism. One after another, they disputed the doctrine that population tends to increase beyond the means of subsistence. One speaker, indeed, seemed to regret that we did not more often have a good devastating war; but he was immediately reassured by a reminder from another speaker that industrial competition was the modern substitute for the eliminating influence of the battle-field—with this advantage, too, in favour of the former, that whereas a war kills off the flower of a population, it is the hindmost that the devil takes in competition.

What, however, seemed to be the chief bases for the prevailing optimism were (1) the amount of the earth's surface still awaiting cultivation, and (2) the belief that "productive power, capital, and scientific resources more than kept pace with any increase in population." But it is easy to attach too much importance to both these factors. Unfortunately, economic theories do not always tally with the facts of experience. Population does not automatically go off to fresh fields; and the existence of virgin soil in Africa does precious little to reduce the overcrowding in Whitechapel. And as for any unbounded belief in "the triumphs of science," is there not some danger of a fallacy here? In the moral sense man does not live by bread alone; but in the physical sense, he does. There is no life to be got out of machinery, or money, or any other thing than bread alone.

The gentleman who is described as "Mr. Park Harrison" in the *Times* and "Mr. Mark Harris" in the *Standard* has views which should lead him further than he has gone at present. The British Association is very catholic, but it must have been a somewhat novel sensation even at Bath to hear a speaker advocate war and the killing off of the infirm. Such, at least, we take to be the meaning of his condemnation of "that extreme feeling which was spreading that war was a horrible and uncivilized thing," and his statement that "there was a tendency in the community which ought not to be pressed so far as to permit the endeavour to save the lives of some of our miserable fellow-creatures." To let a man die whose life can be saved is but one remove from killing off the unfit, but from this it would seem Mr. Park Harrison or Mr. Mark Harris illogically shrinks. We do not exactly see why. Once regard the human race as merely live stock, and there is no reason why the herd should not be weeded out every year by the human vet., just as diseased cows and broken-winded horses are periodically sent to the knacker's yard.

There was a rather remarkable confession of weakness in the Duke of Rutland's speech at Ilkeston yesterday. He was noticing the dread entertained by some Unionists that the English electors might in the end go for Home Rule "out of sheer weariness," and his answer to the objection was :—

> I venture to say that so long as these declarations of opinion in favour of boycotting and the Plan of Campaign are maintained, so long will the sense and conscience of every English man and woman revolt from the idea of capitulating to their utterers.

If the only barriers to Home Rule are boycotting and the Plan of Campaign, the Unionists are in a bad way. For both are temporary expedients, and both are rendered necessary only by the exaction of unjust rents. What therefore the Duke's remark comes to is this, that it is necessary to goad the Irish people with the pricks of injustice in order to keep Unionism going. What a rotten cause it must be which requires such support!

"From every part of Ireland come gratifying proofs," said the Duke of Rutland yesterday, "that the Government have been successful." Then why in the name of all that is sensible do the Government not publish the proofs? Why, for instance, did they so obstinately withhold the statistics of derelict farms for which Mr. Morley pressed with unsuccessful importunity last session? And why do they not hasten to correct the Registrar-General's return showing that the population of Ireland has decreased during 1887 by close upon 60,000? Or is the extermination of the Irish people itself one of the "successes" which so much "gratify" the Duke of Rutland?

The two potentates who the other day were supposed to be *in extremis* appear this morning in much more flourishing circumstances. The Emperor of Morocco has fought his way out of his encompassing enemies, and is supposed to be at this moment exhibiting the heads of the slain to his loyal subjects in Mequinez. A Simla telegram gives almost equally reassuring news as to the position of the Ameer at Cabul. Three of Abdurrahman's armies are concentrating to crush Ishak Khan, and a decisive battle is expected shortly to come off near Haibak, where Ishak is strongly posted. Before the month is over, therefore, the great issue will probably be decided. If Ishak can destroy the advancing armies in detail before they can concentrate, he will march in triumph to Cabul. If not, it will probably go hard with Ishak.

We owe the *Daily News* an *amende*. In 1884 their Mr. Lucy was presented to the Mikado, in the wake of an English M.P. Our Commissioner, therefore, was not the first press man presented to the Japanese Sovereign—he was only the first journalist received who was presented on his own account as representative of an English newspaper, and not as the appendage of a travelling Baronet and M.P.

We can well believe, with Sir F. Bramwell, that such a scheme for rebuilding Underground London as Colonel Hazard propounded at the British Association yesterday would meet with insuperable objections from vested interests. But what a curious light is thrown on the complexity of modern civilization by the mere list of purposes to which Colonel Hazard devoted his four imaginary subways! Here are the principal of them :—

Express trains.	Postal tubes.
Slow trains.	Parcel tubes.
Sewers.	Refrigerating tubes.
Water mains.	Electric light wires.
Gas mains.	Electric signals.
Steam service pipes.	Electric telegraphs.
Pneumatic power.	Electric telephones.

"And all the other essentials or conveniences," added the lecturer, "of modern life." What full lives we ought all to be leading above ground to need such elaborate burrowing for our convenience underground!

Mr. Frederick Harcourt, "a comedian," was fined at the Wandsworth police-court yesterday for assaulting Mr. William Holmes, "an actor," The cause of quarrel was that Mr. Holmes, playing the part of a "super" in "The Fall of Khartoum" at a local theatre, insisted on "taking the call" and following the principal performers before the curtain. This is simply a reduction to absurdity of a custom which, even at West-end theatres, is ludicrously abused. Until about 1820, no performer ever appeared before the curtain, unless it were to speak a prologue or an epilogue. The stage-manager "gave out" the repetition of the play, and that was all. Under Elliston's rule at Drury Lane the audience got into the habit of calling for the principal performer to "give out." Macready, after winning his

spurs as Richard III., was the first actor to be summoned before the curtain at Covent Garden. He notes the innovation as a thing to be regretted; what would he say could he see the whole company trooping across the stage, as is commonly the case at our modern theatres? Before long, we shall probably see the call-boy strutting and simpering at the footlights after each "great success."

We are glad to see that the local committee for the defence of the river rights in Surrey, which have been invaded as we described the other day, are going to take the law into their own hands. It is one of the scandals of our law that such a course should be necessary. Still, as it is, we hope that the committee will make their assertion of the public rights short, sharp, and decisive. As on the fells so on the river; as at Latrigg so at Burwood: the only effective means of defence is to take the offensive, and level the obstructions by main force—thus throwing on the encroaching individual the onus of proving his right to exclude the public.

Mr. Saunders, the Worship-street police magistrate, ought to be prosecuted for a speech he made yesterday, if the law against inciting to riot is to be impartially administered. An application was made to him on behalf of a Pole for a summons against his master, a Jew tailor, who would not pay the wages alleged to be due. This is the speech that Mr. Saunders made:—

> The Pole has no business in this country. He is taking the bread out of the mouths of Englishmen. You may have a summons, but I hope you won't succeed!

Now, whatever may be Mr. Saunders's private opinion as to the immigration of foreigners, that immigration has so far been unchecked by the Legislature, whose laws Mr. Saunders is paid to administer. Yet this audacious Jack-in-office goes out of his way to throw discredit on the law, and to insult an applicant for justice, who is as much entitled to the protection of the law as any subject of the Queen's can be. A gross breach of decorum, if not of duty.

And this same magistrate presently had before him one William Bailey, on a charge of maliciously wounding a woman named Tidmarsh, with whom he lived. It was stated that the woman's face had been fearfully mutilated. The story was that when about to go to bed on the previous evening the prisoner had struck her, whereupon she told him he was "like Leather Apron." He then knocked her down, and she remembered no more till the police found her in a pool of blood. "Without hearing the medical evidence," Mr. Saunders ordered this brute to enter into his own recognizances to keep the peace for six months, and he left the dock abusing the prosecutrix. This man had frequently assaulted the woman before, though she had not summoned him before. It will not be Mr. Saunders's fault if he does not mutilate her still more.

FADS AND FASHIONS IN THE BOOK TRADE.

"WHEN the grouse are on the wing, the book remains on the shelf," is a proverb which though perhaps not distinguished for any depth of sagacity, has at least the merit of being true. August and September are or should be the two pleasantest months of the year, and the library is hardly the most suitable place to spend them in. The stream, the moor, and the road have then more attractions than the quartos and folios of a bygone age, and perhaps no one but a philosopher or his prototype—the worm-eaten bibliophile—would prefer to pore over the latter while there is health to be got in the open. Hence the auction rooms are closed, the season is at an end, and they whose business it is to provide the book mart with its annual store of volumes, and they who watch the market have time to figure up their gains or speculate on the future. There is nothing so difficult as to prophesy on the turn human fancy may take. The vagaries of fashion are all but incomprehensible; some think that they are altogether beyond the pale of natural law. However this may be, the fashion in books has its caterers, who know, or think they know, what form it will assume, and who make their arrangements accordingly. Their basis of operation is the results of auction sales, and it is maintained that when a sufficient number of reports of these are analyzed it is perfectly possible to test the public fancy to a nicety, and to tell what authors are on the wane or the reverse. Let us take, then, the record of eighteen months, and see in what direction the book hunter is wending his way, and where he will go when he returns from his holiday.

Shakspeare usually spells ruin on the stage; it always does so in the auction room. Those choice little quartos which were published during the lifetime of the great dramatist, and which for the most part bear his name, are so rare that during the whole period under review only two imperfect and very inferior specimens found their way to the hammer. Of the folios a few were submitted to competition only to be bought up for the public libraries, whence it is presumed they will never emerge so long as one stone stands upon another. The prices given were ruinous, and show that it is not the author who is worshipped but so many pieces of bric-à-brac. The scholarly editions of Pope, Theobald, Hanmer, Blair, Malone, and a score of other commentators went begging, for the fashion which once prevailed has changed long ago, and Shakspeare has been discarded for Dickens. Thackeray, and in fact any other author of repute who had the foresight to embellish his books with full-page engravings or coloured plates. "The Comic History of England" has a greater charm for the book buyer of to-day than all the efforts of the commentators. This is the main road travelled by the book buyer, who will doubtless, for some time to come, pay anything rather than be without his extra plates by Buss, and his grotesque abortions of Rowlandism. But if the records are to be trusted, he will awake, and before long, with a glimmering of the unpalatable truth that the fashion has changed again, perhaps this time in favour of dictionaries or ready reckoners, and goodness knows what else besides.

Early printed books relating to or printed in America are, and doubtless will be, in great request, for our American cousins have lately developed an intense interest in topographical incidents affecting their own country. Mr. Lennox, of New York, confirmed the fashion, and spent thousands in making his library as complete as possible in this respect. Similarly, patriotic Scotchmen buy up books printed in their own country during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and these, too, will prove a constant source of speculation in the future.

County histories, lamentably fallen of late years from their high estate, show signs of improvement; while Ruskin and Hamerton hold the public by the nose, and are likely to do so so long as the public are sacrificed at the shrine of pounds, shillings, and pence. Tell a man he must not have a thing and he covets it the more. With these and one or two other conspicuous exceptions, art books are at a discount, and it is predicted that at last they will fall to the level of "Pearson on the Creed" or "Scott's Commentaries."

Bewick has always been a favourite since Mr. Hugo re-extolled his virtues, but he has reached the zenith of his fame, and is more likely to fall than to rise; and the same remark applies to Yarrell, Gould, Couch, and other naturalists who occupy an enviable position on account of their merits or the gorgeous magnificence of their productions.

Speaking generally, old English works which have their centre of attraction as specimens of typography will probably constitute the best investment of any in the future. Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde command large sums, but will be masters of larger before the century is out, and so on of many other printer-authors who combined both professions in those primitive times when labour was undivided.

All this, however, is a mere forecast of the probable form of mania which the curiosity-hunter will be afflicted with. The student need have no fear that his library will deteriorate in value. His books are the beggars of the auction-room, and whatever reputation they may have is not there, but within their tattered covers of cloth. Educational books are, indeed, the only genuine specimens of the popular taste: all the others are fictitious, depending on a variety of circumstances, chief among which may be reckoned a spirit of emulation which would be childish were it not disciplined.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LORD COLERIDGE AND THE MATTHEW ARNOLD MEMORIAL.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—My attention has been called to some observations of yours on a letter of mine addressed to the morning papers. I wish to say, first, that any subscriber is of course at liberty to devote his money to either of the three objects mentioned in my letter, or indeed to any other; that a great many have specially subscribed to one object or another, and that their wishes will be religiously observed; and next, that I intended neither severity nor sarcasm in my references to Mr. W. H. Smith. I should have felt either sarcasm or severity quite out of place from me to him. I desired simply and plainly to state the fact, and the result which appeared to me to follow from it.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

COLERIDGE.

Heath's Court, Ottery S. Mary, Devon, Sept. 12.

A NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WORKING GENTLEWOMEN.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to be able to report that in consequence of the article on "A National Society for Gentlewomen," which appeared in your paper on September 5, I have received many kind and encouraging letters and offers of help from influential quarters, and hope by next month to be able to call a preliminary meeting. Further promises of help, pecuniary or otherwise, will be gratefully accepted by us, for the scheme is a large one, and will demand both hard work and a large fund.—Yours sincerely,

Hampstead, September 11. M. E. KING.

TURNER'S "RAIN, STEAM, AND SPEED."

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In the "Extra" on "The Best Trains," which you publish to-day, I notice that you have appended a letter from W. J. B. (p. 33) criticising my comment on Turner's picture, "Rain, Steam, and Speed." I had not the advantage of your correspondent in having seen the memorable opening of the Manchester and Liverpool Railway. His remark on this event is not to the point, even if it were correct. The question raised by J. W. B. is whether or not Turner correctly represented the Great Western locomotive in 1844, with the furnace at the same end as the chimney. I have the testimony of one of our greatest authorities on railway history—Mr. Clement E. Stretton, C.E.—that (in his own words) such representation is "too absurd." This is the engineer's comment.—Yours, &c.,

CAMERON SWAN.

September 11, 1888.

CHANGING HORSES IN THE STREETS.

THE London Road Car Company's servants still change their horses in the roadway in front of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. The police look on, and for the time being hold their hand, awaiting the further action in the law courts which the company have promised and are resolved to take. They cannot accept the decision of Mr. D'Eyncourt as final, for if it were generally applied, they would be practically driven off the London streets. If their horses cannot be changed except at the stables, then the vehicle must leave the routes, and the passengers must either alight or waste time by being driven half a mile or more out of their way. It is impossible to secure sufficient stable accommodation at the termini for the whole stud of the company, and if the horses had to be brought any distance it would mean that instead of employing ten or eleven horses to a car thirteen or fourteen would be required, which would practically extinguish the present slender profits. The public, it must be admitted, have the best of it at present, enjoying a good service and extremely low fares, and it is a matter of importance to them therefore that fair play is done to the company, and that they are not, on some narrow reading of the law, denied the facilities required for their business. There is certainly much more obstruction caused in our busiest thoroughfares by brewers' drays and the delivery of beer—where the footpath becomes the entrance to the publicans' cellars, and is practically monopolized by them—than by the changing of horses in front of St. Margaret's Church, and at many other points.

An anonymous peer seems to have been at the bottom of the affair. The general manager of the London Road Car Company has informed a representative that about the middle of June the horsekeepers complained that the police were interfering with them and threatening to lock them up. To avoid any friction they changed their position frequently, but with no better result. The general manager, along with one of the directors, thereupon called at King-street station, and pointed out that they had changed horses for seven or eight years at the spot in question, that there never had been any complaint, and that they would do everything in their power to prevent any obstruction or any necessity for police interference. The officers stated in reply that some peer had made a complaint, and that it was necessary to keep the approaches to the Houses of Parliament clear. The general manager asked if the peer had been obstructed, but they would not say whether he had or not, but he had complained. Possibly his eyes had been offended at the presence of a democratic vehicle in such an aristocratic quarter. The company then resolved not to move from the original spot, and face the consequences. After a few days' quiet the police began again to interfere, and took the names of the horsekeepers. Communications were then opened with Sir Charles Warren, who in effect stated that a complaint had been made by a peer on June 16, and the police could not allow any obstruction. The former assurances were given that no obstruction would be caused, and everything would be done to render police interference unnecessary, but shortly afterwards summonses were served on one of the conductors and two of the horsekeepers, with the result that a small fine was imposed by the magistrate at the Westminster police-court. As a matter of fact this station is, perhaps, the least crowded thoroughfare of all those in which the company change their horses—Liverpool-street, for instance, or the Fulham-road, or Hammersmith. But then peers do not seem to be so plentiful in those localities.

THE SULTAN'S ELECTRIC DOG-CART.

THE Sultan of Turkey is abreast of the latest developments of science. He is not only a patron of electricity as a motive power, but has directed its application to a vehicle which can be propelled on an ordinary road. Messrs. Immisch and Co., of Malden-crescent, Prince of Wales-road, N.W., have built for his Majesty's use a dog-cart which is driven by electricity, and yesterday it underwent a trial at the Camden Skating Rink before two gentlemen from the Turkish Embassy and a number of representatives of the press. The vehicle is in appearance similar to an ordinary four-wheeled dog-cart without shafts, the material of which it is constructed being walnut and a light-coloured wood, brightly varnished. The cushions are upholstered in brown cloth, and embroidered with the Turkish Imperial crest. A shaft with a steering handle which passes upward through the footboard is attached to a toothed rack connected with the front wheels, and by this means one of the occupants of the front seat can steer the vehicle with the greatest facility. The brake is also mechanical, and is actuated by the driver's foot. The motor is placed underneath the cart, and a band passes from it to the off hind wheel, the other three being as free as in an ordinary vehicle. This motor is of Messrs. Immisch and Co.'s one-horse power type, using in this case a current of twenty ampères, with an electromotive force of forty-eight volts. The power is stored in twenty-four small accumulators of special type, placed underneath the back seat, and therefore out of sight. They contain a charge sufficient to propel the vehicle for about five hours at a speed of 10 miles per hour. When the vehicle is running at this speed the motor makes 1,440 revolutions per minute and develops ¾ horse-power. The weight of the accumulators is about 7 cwt. and the weight of the vehicle complete 11 cwt. On rough roads or steep gradients the car would not show well, but on a smooth path it runs beautifully, and is turned and stopped with great facility. The electric connection can be broken instantaneously by the driver, and the brake power soon brings the vehicle to a standstill. The Sultan, we understand, is preparing roads in his palace grounds for the cart, so that he can make use of it under the best conditions. It is only a toy, of course, a fancy in which Sultans and millionaires may indulge, and the makers do not entertain the hope that this will be the forerunner of electrically-propelled vehicles in our streets. Tramways, obviously, stand in a different category.

At Home and Abroad.

The Prince of Wales, as the chief guest of the Emperor of Austria at the manœuvres in Croatia, met with a remarkable reception yesterday at Belovar. A procession of magnates escorted the Emperor and the Prince from the railway station at Kreutz.

President Carnot continues to be enthusiastically received in Normandy. Replying to the Mayor of Cherbourg, at a banquet, the President said he attributed his hearty welcome to the confidence felt in the Government, who desired to uphold the institutions of France and to maintain peace.

A Constantinople telegram says that the Porte has intimated its firm determination to append to the Suez Canal Convention a declaration explaining Article 10. If the Powers decline to come to an agreement on the subject the Porte declares that it will not ratify the convention.

A large congress of Belgian Catholics will be held next month to protest against the situation in which the Pope is placed owing to the recent measures taken by the Italian Government. The congress will probably meet at Louvain.

Information has been received at St. Petersburg from Macedonia which leaves little doubt as to the serious character of the present movement in that Turkish province. According to statements from Turkish sources the country is firmly resolved to act without mercy if necessary, and the Government declares that it can quickly suppress any revolt.

It is stated from Simla that the troops of the Ameer of Afghanistan are closing on the rebel Ishak Khan from three sides. A decisive battle is expected shortly.

The proclamation formally declaring British sovereignty over a portion of New Guinea was published at Brisbane yesterday.

General Harrison's letter is warmly praised by the Republicans, whereas his opponents ridicule his views upon the tariff question. The Democratic vote in Maine was the largest ever cast in that State.

General Boulanger is staying incognito at Christiania, and intends to make a tour of Norway and Sweden, having his friend and fellow-deputy for the Nord, M. Koechlin Schwartz, for his cicerone.

For several days past the church clock at Harpenden, near Luton, has refused to work. On an inspection being made yesterday it was found that a swarm of bees had taken up their abode among the works.

At a large and influential meeting held at Stafford yesterday a resolution was passed, and a subscription list opened, in favour of the acquisition of Cannock Chase as the "New Wimbledon."

At the Hereford Musical Festival yesterday "Samson" and "The Woman of Samaria" were performed in the cathedral in the morning, and a concert was given in the evening.

Mr. Plowden, at Wandsworth police-court, yesterday granted another remand in the case of James Young, who stands charged with shooting a draper's assistant named Woolley, for seducing his daughter. Bail was offered and taken.

At Skibbereen petty sessions yesterday, an English young lady, named Miss Ada Davis, a landlord's daughter, was charged with shooting Michael Crowley, aged ten, while robbing a fruit garden. The case was dismissed, the boy refusing to swear.

The cotton spinners of Lancashire are again face to face with another corner in American cotton. A syndicate has got command of the market, and prices have been forced up rapidly for some weeks. It is expected, however, that the corner will be defeated, as the last was, by the combined action of the cotton spinners.

Arrangements are being made for a review and field-day of Volunteers belonging to several of the great public schools, to be held in Cashiobury Park, Hertfordshire, next month. The force will include the corps of Harrow, Rugby, Haileybury, Bedford, and Dulwich schools, with the Artists' Rifles (20th Middlesex).

A new theatre was opened at Berlin last night, the proprietor and manager of which is the renowned author Oscar Blumenthal. It was opened with "Nathan the Wise," by Lessing, in memory of whom it is called the "Lessing Theatre." The famous actor Possart, from Munich, played the title rôle, and a large and brilliant audience attended this theatrical event.

Last evening, at the Zukertort Chess Club, in the City-road, Herr Bardeleben, the celebrated German master, played six blindfold games simultaneously. The affair lasted three hours and a half, and in the end Bardeleben won four games and drew the remaining two. Throughout Bardeleben played very accurately, and in one case mated on the twentieth move.

Albert Evans, describing himself as an engineer, has been committed for trial on the charge of stealing valuable portmanteaus from carriages on the Great Northern Railway. The prisoner is understood to be one of the most expert railway thieves of the present day, and never leaves even an express train until he secures what he considers can be converted into at least £500.

The first sod in connection with the Belfast main drainage scheme was cut yesterday by Mr. William M'Cammond, J.P., chairman of the Town Improvement Committee of Belfast. The mayor and corporation and the leading merchants of the town attended the ceremony. The work, which is the most costly undertaking ever entered upon in Ireland, will cost nearly £300,000.

Mr. Gladstone, being asked by the Northampton Liberal Association to speak in their town, sent the following reply:—I sincerely regret it, but my answer must be negative. You have seen in the public journals what kind of holiday I have had thus far. I do not now propose any further public utterances on public affairs before the meeting of the Liberal Federation. I know well that Northampton needs no one to help her in seeing her way on the Irish question.

The deputy city coroner for Manchester, speaking yesterday, said that the average number of infantile deaths in Manchester from overlying or suffocation in bed was one hundred yearly. Nearly all the cases of mothers overlying their children occurred on Saturday nights, and drink was responsible for many of these fatalities. Short of making parents liable to prosecution for criminal neglect, as was the case in Germany, he did not know what could be done.

The annual report of the Registrar-General for Ireland, just issued, tells the old story of a continued decrease in the population of that unhappy country. Its total population in 1887 did not exceed 4,837,313, or only a few thousands more than that of London. The birth rate was the lowest on record, being only one in forty-three of the population. The death rate was 18.3 per thousand, or one-tenth under the average for the previous ten years.

It is officially stated at Cairo that the accounts published by some London morning papers as to the state of the Nile and the probable disastrous results to the crops are quite incorrect. The Nile is rising slowly, and the Egyptian grain crop will be equal to that of the year 1884. It is probable that the river will continue to rise slightly until the 24th inst., when the height of the water at Assouan may be expected to be about fifteen cubits.

A REMARKABLE VOLCANO STORY.

SHOWERS OF RED-HOT STONES.

The following is a copy of the remarkable letter referred to in the account given of the recent volcanic eruption in the Island of Vulcano by Dr. H J. Johnston-Lavis. The letter is signed "A. E. Narlian," and dated Lipari, August 30:—

"On the 3rd inst. we had an outburst in the crater, with stones, flames, thunder (regular lightnings). It was strong enough to throw stones of considerable size to the sides of the mountain. We had often seen such eruptions during 12 to 13 years I have been on the island, and I hoped it would end like former eruptions. Towards evening, however, the rushes of smoke, steam, and ashes (which used to be projected into the air to about twice the height of the mountain) had completely ceased. As the night approached the leading *fumarole* (which was very active, giving off an offensive smell for months before the event) had begun to show a clear high flame, much paler than the flames produced by the burning of wood, and somewhat greenish or bluish. This phenomenon, together with the sudden stopping of the smoke, was not evidently a good omen. Consequently, I spent all the night dressed on a sofa in the drawing room. Towards morning I was overpowered by sleep, and went to the little bedroom which looks towards the mountain, rested on the bed, and soon was evidently sound asleep. Soon afterwards I was awakened by a tremendous din, which can hardly be described.

"As I jumped up from my bed I felt stones falling on the roof as hail—such cannonading going on. I understood what was the matter, ran to the opposite room, where I had made my children sleep that night. They were also up in consequence of an indescribable noise of thunder, rush of gases, flames, falling of huge boulders, rocks, &c. I took them to the drawing-room, but as soon as the door was opened a big stone, red hot (all these stones were quite red with heat), fell through the roof, ceiling, and floor a few yards from us, smashing all, setting fire to everything. Now I took my children back to the bedroom, which looks on to the verandah, and tried to gain the terrace by that side. The house doors were shivering and shaking, so that it was a difficult matter to open them. At last I succeeded, but before we were out in the verandah another stone fell at our feet, was smashed to fragments, and burned the feet and legs of my boys. Now we passed through the verandah, regained the house at the top of the stairs; here another stone fell very near us (none of these stones were less than 2 ft. in diameter). This last stone (which is the fourth that struck the house) has nearly blocked our way out in the rubbish that it brought from the roof. We passed through over the heap of rubbish, and were now out in the open to the north of the house. By this time (not many minutes after all) the whole place was lighted up; woods, grass, buildings, hedges—all was on fire; the huge boulders and stones were literally raining everywhere about us—what confusion! Natali, the faithful boy, had by this time come to the help of my little boys. We all began to run to Vulcanello and away from the dreadful thundering mountain. Towards noon boats of rescue reached us from Lipari, and we thus ended one of the most eventful days of our life.

"On revisiting the spot I saw the whole plains below the mountain, to the distance of one-and-a-half-mile, especially the neighbourhood of the house and the men's habitations, literally covered with boulders and rocks of all sizes, which have embedded themselves in the ground to various depths The most huge of them is near the well of the house, which is not less than ten yards in diameter, or better length, and is some 10-11 ft. deep in the ground. This is about three-quarters of a mile from the crater. Another of nearly equal dimensions is on the shore near the Quarantana, at the end of the bay of the Levante. Rocks of one yard in diameter are as plentiful as can be as far as the middle of Vulcanello, near the Punta Samossa. No doubt many of these boulders are from ten to fifteen yards across, and are projected as far as the sea, but often fall back in the crater itself. This state is continuing incessantly and uninterruptedly, causing further damage and frightening everybody."

CANADA AND THE CLEVELAND POLICY.

(EXCHANGE TELEGRAM.)

OTTAWA, Thursday.—In connection with the statement cabled to a London morning paper [the *Standard*] last Tuesday, to the effect that Sir J. Macdonald thinks President Cleveland's retaliatory proposals will serve as the basis for a demand upon the Home Government for a grant of several millions sterling to develop strategical and commercial railways, it is officially denied here that the Dominion Government have any such intention. It is added that there is not a shadow of foundation for any suggestion that Canada contemplates asking money from England for military purposes of whatever description.

OSMAN DIGNA GIVING TROUBLE AGAIN.

The Suakin correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing yesterday, says:—This morning a party of Osman Digna's cavalry, numbering about fifty, supported by footmen, approached within 1,500 yards of the outer forts with the intention of making a raid on the cattle. Five native woodcutters were killed. The forts opened fire to protect them, killing six of the enemy and wounding many. On the appearance of our cavalry the enemy retired to the hills. This is the first hostile movement on the part of Osman Digna for some weeks.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA'S SALMON FISHERY IN FINLAND

The Emperor of Russia, who is extremely fond of fishing, has had a spacious fishing house put up in the neighbourhood of the great waterfall at his Langilla salmon fishery, Finland, in the midst of romantic scenery. The house is extremely simple in style, and contains an ante-room (used as dwelling-room), two small bedrooms for the Emperor and Empress, and a kitchen. A wide veranda runs along the side of the house facing the falls. In this pleasant spot the Emperor spent several days this season, and was very well content with his sport. The Empress herself undertakes the cooking of the fish, while her husband fetches the necessary water, &c. The younger members of the Imperial family also most heartily enjoy this fishing holiday.—*Fishing Gazette.*

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VICTORY OF THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO.

JOY IN THE CAPITAL.

A correspondent of the *Times*, despatching a message from Tangier on September 4, says:—"The news has reached here that his Majesty the Sultan has successfully cut his way through the rebel tribes that were surrounding him The means by which he has done this are at present uncertain, but the opinion here is that he attacked and surprised the Berber tribes.

"An official letter announcing this victory was received from the Sultan with great honours. Early in the morning trumpeters announced the arrival of the missive by sounding fanfares on the Kasbah. At midday the Bascha, attended by a numerous suite, rode to the chief mosque, where his Majesty's letter was officially read. At the close of the reading a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the saluting battery, while his Majesty's ship *Hassanieh* decorated her masts and yards with flags. Shortly after this, the whole town presented an unusually gay appearance, every native shop, and some of the European, hanging out flags and coloured scarves, while the people kept general holiday. The Sultan by this time is in Mequinez, where he intends exposing to public view the heads of the slain, and whither he will take the 300 prisoners he has captured.

"His Majesty's journey to Tangier will shortly commence, but for another fortnight he will not travel, owing to its being a month in which by the Mahommedan religion it is forbidden to marry or travel. During his stay here important political affairs will be discussed, and some differences that at present exist between the European Ministers and the Shereefian Court may very likely be settled. Probably the attack on Cape Juby, the North-West African Company's depôt, in March last, will form an important item in the interviews between the British Minister and the Sultan. Great preparations are being made here for a grand reception."

THE EMIN PASHA RELIEF EXPEDITIONS.

GERMAN JEALOUSY OF ENGLAND.

Since the publication of the charter granted to the Imperial British East African Company great uneasiness (says the Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News*) is perceptible in German colonial circles and the colonial press. Articles appear almost daily, in which England is held up as a pattern, showing how a colonial policy ought to be carried out. The fact that the new English company has already sufficient funds, while in Germany they have not yet succeeded in getting over financial difficulties, is much commented upon. These articles imply a fear that the new British company may also equip an expedition for the relief of Emin Pasha, and so anticipate German intentions. What an impression the formation of the British East African Company has made upon the adherents of an energetic colonial policy may be inferred from the course of the proceedings at the meeting of the committee of the German Colonial Company, now being held in Wiesbaden. Yesterday the following resolution was passed:—

The committee of the German Colonial Company declares the undertaking to advance the stations in the German East African territory towards Lake Ukerewe and further across to the Albert Nyanza, to restore communication with Emin Pasha in Wadelai, to be desirable in the interests of the nation, and it is prepared to support such a company formed with this object to the best of its ability.

A provisional Emin Pasha committee was formed, under the presidency of Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg. It has resolved to appeal instantly to the public for the necessary funds. In Liberal circles not much sympathy is shown towards the inauguration of a far-reaching colonial policy by Germany, and the *Vossische Zeitung* says that the object of the German relief expedition is evidently not the humane one proposed for the relief of their countryman, Dr. Schnitzer, as at first pretended, but purely a colonial and political one, while the *Freisinnige Zeitung* also adversely criticises the Wiesbaden resolution, and says that the German public cannot be too strongly warned to close their purses to such an attempt to entice them, under the pretext of Emin Pasha's name, into a colonial policy. It may be added that the adherents of such a policy are in the majority in Germany.

A telegram from Zanzibar says:—Order is temporarily restored on the coast by General Mathews. The Arabs have a large force at Pangani of indigenous tribes ready to reassemble at a moment's notice. They demand the redress of grievances experienced at the hands of the German company's officials. The situation is very serious and trade is paralyzed. The German officials have withdrawn safely from the perilous position at Tanga and Pangani.

Captain Van Gele, chief of the Stanley Falls military expedition, and Mr. John Rose Troup, one of the members of Mr. Stanley's expedition, have arrived at Lisbon from the Upper Congo by way of Banana, on board a Portuguese steamer. They are both *en route* for England.

THE INUNDATIONS ON THE CONTINENT.

The floods in the valleys of the Tyrol are growing worse every hour. A village near Bregenz is entirely submerged. The flood came so suddenly that several lives were lost. According to the latest news from Trient, three parts of the city are under water. Communication with the gasworks has been cut off, and the town is therefore in darkness. No messages having arrived for some time, it is believed that the telegraph is interrupted. Many tourists in the hotels cannot get away. Trains only run as far as Bozen from the north, and to Roveredo from the south. A telegram from Bregenz states that the entire Rhine valley is flooded.

A later telegram from Rome states that the Adige continues to rise. Telegrams from Trient state that the position is alarming. Soldiers are working day and night at the embankments. The behaviour of the troops is, according to all reports, admirable. According to the latest intelligence the rivers in Lombardy are beginning to decrease.

"LONDON CORRESPONDENCE" IN THE DULL SEASON.

The following note appears in the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes's organ, the *Methodist Times*, to-day:—"The London correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post*, and of several other provincial journals, has evidently, like Sheridan, the great gift of 'going to his imagination for his facts.' He has informed his numerous readers that 'the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes is contemplating secession from Methodism, and a return to the bosom of the Church.' How Mr. Hughes could in any case 'return' to a bosom on which he had never rested is not very obvious. But London correspondents must be allowed poetic licence, as well as the privilege of inventing the kind of news which enlightens the provinces. When the London correspondent was about it, why did he not do the thing thoroughly, and say that Mr. Hughes was going to join the Greek Church? That would have sounded much more romantic."

For FEUILLETON, see page 13.

FOURTH EDITION.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

THE RUSSIAN MILITARY MANŒUVRES.

NOVAJA PRAGA (Cherson) Sept. 13.—The military manœuvres which have been carried out in the vicinity of this place during the last few days in presence of the Tzar terminated yesterday. The manner in which the Reservists, who numbered about ten thousand men, acquitted themselves is commended on all sides. To-day his Majesty will hold a grand review of the troops.

GERMAN MILITARY MANŒUVRES.

BERLIN, Sept. 13.—The Emperor arrived here early this morning on his return from Wilhelmshaven. His Majesty, accompanied by the foreign princes now staying here, and all his other illustrious guests, attended by their respective suites, left again at a quarter to nine for the scene of the approaching military manœuvres near Münchberg.

MR. CARL SCHURZ ON AMERICAN POLITICS.

BERLIN, Sept. 13.—Mr. Carl Schurz, who is still in Germany, has addressed a letter to the *National Zeitung* in which he combats emphatically some statements lately made in an article in the *Kreuz Zeitung* as to the corruptness at elections in the United States, attacking in particular the allegations that the Presidential election is from first to last merely an affair of money. Mr. Schurz declares that this assertion constitutes a dishonouring suspicion of the American national character, and goes on to say that political life in the United States is in no way the corrupt pandemonium that the *Kreuz Zeitung* represents it to be. The American nation is a staunch, great-hearted, and self-respecting nation, and, observes Mr. Schurz in conclusion, people will always do well when they hear such sweeping disparagements uttered respecting it to receive them with the utmost caution.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN AUSTRIA.

BELLOVAR, Sept. 13.—The Emperor and the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Crown Prince and the Archdukes, left here on horseback at half-past seven this morning for the scene of the army manœuvres which are to be carried out to-day.

The Emperor of Austria, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Crown Prince Rudolph and Archduke Otto, reached Bellovar, in Hungary, yesterday morning. Triumphal arches had been erected, and large crowds thronged the streets through which the Imperial party drove in open carriages to the official residence of the prefect. The Prince of Wales, wearing his Austrian hussar uniform, sat beside the Emperor in the first carriage. At the prefecture the Emperor was received by Archduke Joseph, and a levée was held at which presentations were made to the Prince of Wales. The Prince's suite consists of Major-General Ellis, C.S.I., the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt Wilson, Prince Louis Esterhazy, and Count Breda, who is a captain in the Austrian army. Major-General Keith Fraser, Military Attaché, is also travelling with the Prince, by the Emperor of Austria's special invitation. The manœuvres will take place to-day and Friday. On Saturday the Prince will arrive at Gödölö with the Emperor, and stay there till Monday, when he will go on a visit to Count Tassilo Festetics. The Prince has scarcely been out of uniform since he arrived at Vienna. It cannot often have happened to his Royal Highness to attend races in uniform, as he did on Tuesday. A Court banquet was given last evening, at which the Prince of Wales, the Archdukes Charles Louis and Otto, the principal military officers, and a number of other distinguished personages were present.

MR. PARNELL'S ACTION IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. Parnell's action against the *Times* was to-day called before Lord Kinnear, in Court of Session, at Edinburgh. Respondents are John Walter, proprietor of the *Times* newspaper, residing at 40, Upper Grosvenor-street, London, and George Edward Wright, printer and publisher of the *Times*, Printing House-square, Blackfriars, London. It is stated that arrestments have been issued against respondents *ad fundandum jurisdictionem*. Counsel for pursuer are Messrs. Balfour, Asher, and Strachan.

A CONTRADICTION FROM MR. DAVITT.

Mr. Davitt has asked the Central News to circulate the following statement: That he has not given any interview to a reporter such as that which appears in the *Daily News* and other papers this morning regarding his connection with the Irish national movement; and that, in fact, he distinctly repudiates the whole statement.

LADY FREDERICK CAVENDISH.

It has been stated that the anonymous donor of £10,000 to the Bristol Bishopric Fund was understood to be Lady Frederick Cavendish. We have, however, good authority for stating that this is not so. Lady Frederick Cavendish was not the anonymous donor.

THE MINERS' STRIKE IN WALES.

Negotiations are being entered into with a view of bringing to a close the miners' and ironworkers' strike at Ebbw Vale. Relief was distributed in the town hall yesterday, the building being besieged by a crowd of famished men, women, and children. It is hoped that the unfortunate differences between masters and men may be arranged this week.

RAILWAY COLLISION IN THE NORTH.

A railway collision occurred on the Great Northern and Great Eastern joint lines last night. An excursion train from Doncaster ran into a detached engine. Many persons in the train were shaken, but no one was seriously injured. The line was blocked.

THEATRE STAGE OR POLITICAL PLATFORM?

At Londonderry a theatre manager has produced an eviction scene on his stage Rated therefor by the Unionist press, Mr. O'Grady took occasion to reply in political discourses which he delivered in front of the footlights. Last night he denounced the Irish Exhibition as a fraud, and de ended his political plays. The "gods" signified approval.

THE MYSTERY IN WHITECHAPEL.

The police continued their inquiries and investigations to-day, but their labours have been entirely without reward, and it is now beginning to be admitted that the detectives are once more at fault. No further arrests have been made, nor have the police any clue which would give hopes of a speedy capture of the murderer. The detectives from Scotland-yard, as well as those belonging to the Bethnal-green division (the latter have charge of the Buck's-row murder), met at the Commercial-street station to make arrangements with the police as to certain low quarters which were to be particularly watched during the night. As evidence of the insecurity prevailing in certain parts of the East-end, notably Hanbury-street and its vicinity, about five persons were accosted yesterday by a gang of roughs, who, among other misdeeds, deprived an old man aged eighty of his gold watch and chain. The man Pigott is still an inmate of the workhouse infirmary, and it is stated that his mental condition has not materially improved. The relatives of the murdered woman Chapman, who occupy respectable positions in life, have taken charge of the remains, which will be interred privately.

A woman named Darrell has made a statement to the effect that about half-past five o'clock on the morning of the murder of Mrs. Chapman she saw a man and a woman conversing outside 29, Hanbury-street, and that they disappeared very suddenly. Mrs. Darrell was taken to the mortuary yesterday, and she identified the body of Chapman as that of the woman whom she saw in Hanbury-street. If this identification can be relied upon it is obviously an important piece of evidence, as it fixes with precision the time at which the murder was committed and corroborates the statement of John Richardson, who went into the yard at a quarter to five, and has persistently declared that the body was not then on the premises. Davis, the man who first saw the corpse, went into the yard shortly after six o'clock. Assuming that the various witnesses have spoken the truth, which there is no reason to doubt, the murder must have been committed between half-past five and six o'clock, and the murderer must have walked through the streets in almost broad daylight without attracting attention, although he must have been at the time more or less stained with blood. This seems incredible, and it has certainly strengthened the belief of many of those engaged in the case that the murderer had not far to go to reach his lodgings.

Mr. Wynne Baxter, coroner, resumed his inquiry concerning the death of Annie Chapman at two o'clock to-day. The evidence tendered yesterday may be summarized in a few lines. Mrs. Richardson, the occupier of the house, and her son gave evidence, the latter testifying that a few minutes before five on the morning of the murder he called at his mother's house, and seeing that all was safe, went to his work in the market. Had the woman's body then been where it was afterwards found he must have observed it. John Piser, otherwise "Leather Apron," was next called, and satisfactorily accounted for his whereabouts not only on Saturday morning but some days previously, and the coroner remarked that his statements had been corroborated.

DIED AFTER READING THE MURDER.

On Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Burridge, a shopkeeper of the Blackfriars-road, was reading an account of the Whitechapel murder, and she was so affected thereby that she fell down in a fit and died.

A SHOCKING STORY FROM COLOGNE.

A horrible story is related by the *Cologne Gazette*, which states that the Royal Procurator visited a detached farmhouse near Oberesch, in the Saarlouis district, to which his attention had been called by the police. He explored the premises, and found in a cupboard or cellar, which was in total darkness, and from which emanated a suffocating stench, a half-naked woman of about thirty-six years of age, who was chained by one leg to the wall of the cell. Four years this wretched creature has been confined in this abominable and pestilential hole, in the course of which period, it is stated, she has been confined of a child. Her mother and two brothers have been arrested.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

The Olympic Theatre had a narrow escape from destruction last night. About half an hour after the audience had left the building the fireman who was closing the place smelt fire. On proceeding to the dressing-room he discovered from the office window that a fire was furiously raging in the adjoining premises owned by a Miss Norton, a wardrobe dealer. He endeavoured to prevent the flames from attacking the theatre, which was in imminent danger, with a hand pump, which he directed from the office window. Finding that the flames were too strong he laid on the main hose, and with assistance directed his efforts from the front of the premises. In the meantime, Sergeant Bosley, of the E division, and Edward Ayre effected an entrance, and rescued from the premises Mr. and Mrs. Simmonds and their daughters, the only occupants of the house. The premises were gutted, and the stage and scenery of the Olympic was much damaged by water and removal.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY DIVIDEND.

The directors of the North British Railway Company have declared a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, and ½ per cent. on Edinburgh and Glasgow ordinary stock, carrying forward £1,200. For the first half of 1887 the dividend on North British ordinary stock was 2½ per cent.

A BLASTING FATALITY IN AMERICA.

Ten men were killed and five dangerously injured on Tuesday morning by a premature explosion of a blast in the Wicks Tunnel, on the Montana Central Railway, near Helena. The disaster was caused by the concussion of a giant cap.

THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISTS.

A special general conference of the National Association of Journalists will meet in the Guildhall, Bristol, on Saturday, to consider a scheme prepared by the central executive for conversion of the association into an incorporated institute of journalists. Representative journalists from all parts of the kingdom will be present. Since the publication of the scheme the association has increased very rapidly; and there is every prospect that the scheme will be adopted with some slight amendments of details. Mr. H. G. Reid, president (in succession to Sir Algernon Borthwick), will be in the chair, and the members will be received by the Mayor of Bristol in the Crown Court. The proceedings of the day will include a luncheon to the president and executive, given by Mr. D. T. Taylor, chairman of the Bristol district of the association, and the customary conference dinner.

RESISTING THE SHERIFF AT EVICTIONS.—SENTENCES.

At Arthurstown yesterday Thomas Somers and seven other defendants were sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for having resisted the sheriff in the Coolroe evictions, and the three remaining defendants were sentenced to four months' imprisonment each. Somers was sentenced to a further period of four months' imprisonment for having assaulted Constable Finnigan, and Ryan to three months' further imprisonment for having incited to obstruction of the bailiffs. Notice of appeal was given in each case, and the prisoners were liberated on bail.

SUICIDE AT SHOREDITCH.

Last evening the coroner for North east Middlesex held an inquest at the Metropolitan Hospital on the body of Ann Skinner, forty, who committed suicide by throwing herself in front of a train at Shoreditch Station. Henry Skinner stated that the deceased was his wife. She lived with him at the above address on good terms, but was a very excitable woman, especially when upset. He had no reason to believe that she would commit suicide. Samuel Tapp, a railway porter, stated that he was on duty at Shoreditch Station on July 31 last. Just as the 11.27 train came in she deliberately jumped off the platform in front of the train, and fell flat in the four-feet way, the train passing over her. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from the effect of injuries caused by throwing herself in front of a train while of unsound mind.

THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH IN BLACKFRIARS.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. G. P. Wyatt, deputy coroner for North-east Surrey, held an inquiry in Lambeth respecting the death of Georgina Byrne, aged thirty-four years, lately residing at 42A, Broad-street, Canterbury. Inspector Garland watched the case on behalf of the Chief Commissioner of Police. Mr. Matthew Nelson, a retired officer from the artillery, identified the deceased as his daughter. Police-constable Duffin, 73 L, said he was on duty in the Blackfriars-road when he saw a crowd and two persons raising a woman from the ground. One of them said, "I am her husband. I will go for a doctor." The witness did not see him again. He removed the deceased to St. Thomas's Hospital, where she was seen by a medical man and pronounced to be dead. There was a pair of boots in the parcel that had been given to him, together with the address of a tradesman in Canterbury. On the body were £2 10s. in gold and a gold watch and chain. The deceased was well dressed. A sovereign fell out of her umbrella when witness opened it at the mortuary. The house surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital said he had examined the body of the deceased, but could find no traces of violence. Death, in his opinion, was due to syncope. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

ALARMING INCREASE OF VAGRANCY IN LONDON.

Yesterday afternoon, at the meeting of the Paddington Board of Guardians, the master of the workhouse called attention to the great increase in the number of vagrants seeking admission into the casual wards. They had to turn numbers away every night, for there was not accommodation sufficient for those who applied. On the previous night fifty-four persons made an application, but only thirty-two could be admitted. There was every indication that the number of persons seeking shelter in casual wards would very much increase during the next few months, and he desired to know what was to be done. The clerk added that there was a fearful scramble among half-starved wretches for admission into the workhouse on the previous night. Colonel Blair said the number of casuals had increased over 70 per cent. during the last month. It was evident that something must be done. Deputy Surgeon-General Jessop said there was every reason to believe that the distress would be very great during the approaching winter. The master of the workhouse stated that all the metropolitan casual wards were full every evening, which was most unusual at this time of the year. It was eventually referred to the workhouse master to ascertain what other parishes did with the casuals.

AN ACTOR SENT TO PRISON.

Before Mr. Justice Denman, in the Chancery Division yesterday, an application was made on behalf of Miss Edith Woodworth, lessee of the Globe Theatre, to commit Mr. Charles Sugden, the actor, for breach of an interim injunction restraining him from playing at the Olympic, in contravention of an agreement by which he bound himself to act only at the Globe. After hearing the arguments, his lordship came to the conclusion that there had been a flagrant violation of the injunction, and ordered Mr. Sugden to be sent to prison for three weeks, and to pay the costs of the proceedings.

An Irish policeman named Flynn has been arrested for cattle stealing when on leave of absence. He is remanded without bail.

Mr. Freeman Thomas has taken Covent Garden Theatre for the Christmas season 1888 and 1889.

Princess Mary visited the Criterion Theatre last evening, and witnessed the play "Betsy," arriving specially early to see the first piece, "The Dowager."

The Duke of Rutland, addressing a meeting at Ilkeston last night, said a true description of the state of Ireland was not to be found in the speeches of men like Mr. Gladstone or Sir W. Harcourt, but in those of men like Davitt, Dillon, and O'Brien.

The death was announced yesterday of Major-General William Henry Crompton-Stansfield, of Esholt Hall, Yorkshire, which happened on the 6th inst., at Buckden, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. He saw active service in the Crimea, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol.

"The Incorporated Free and Open Church Association" state that they have received a large number of applications for placards bearing the legend: "This church is open daily for private prayer." The subject will be discussed at the forthcoming Church Congress.

Captain Hemsley, R.N., who was present at the battle of Navarino, has just died, at Rochester, at the age of 87. Captain Hemsley was in the year 1835 master of the sailing vessel *Pigot*, which he and Captain the Hon. H. J. Rous brought 1,000 miles through the Adriatic without a rudder, steering her simply by her sails and a cable trailed astern.

FATAL FALL FROM STILTS.—An inquest was held at Norwich yesterday on the body of a boy of thirteen, who died from a fall from a pair of stilts in a stilt race. The surgeon to the Norwich police force, who had made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased, came to the conclusion that he died from injuries occasioned through falling from stilts, aggravated by his running a race shortly afterwards. The jury returned the following verdict: "That the deceased died from inflammation of the peritoneum, occasioned by an accidental fall from stilts."

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

BANK RATE FOUR PER CENT.—STOCK MARKETS QUIET. PRICES WEAK.

At last the Bank of England directors have decided to raise their official minimum to 4 per cent., it having stood at 3 per cent. since the 9th of August. It was fully expected that an upward movement would be made to-day after yesterday's large withdrawal of gold for the Argentine Republic, and this morning bill brokers have only been accepting business subject to any alteration. Since the rate was raised to 3 per cent. there has been a steady flow of gold into the Bank from the Continent, and had it not been for the South American demand it is not at all improbable that the Bank would have been able to work for a considerable time longer at that rate. In the open market rates are somewhat unsettled, but there is a strong demand for accommodation in the shape of short loans owing to the payments on the Stock Exchange.

The advance in the Bank rate has had a somewhat weakening effect on the stock markets, and prices in most directions show a decline. The attention of operators, however, is largely occupied with the final arrangements in connection with the settlement, and the amount of new business entered into is small. Consols are steady without material change. In the Home Railway market the declaration of the North British dividend has had a favourable effect on North British stock, but part of the rise has been lost on realization sales by those operators who had gone for a good dividend. The distribution is fully up to the expectations of the most sanguine. In other directions prices are lower on the advance in the value of money. Foreign Government bonds are inactive, and show no change of importance. Latest telegraphic advices from Buenos Ayres report an advance in the premium on gold at that centre to 47.85 per cent. The feature in the American Railroad market is the decline in Milwaukee and St. Paul shares, on the announcement that the directors have declared a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the Preferred stock, being a reduction of 1 per cent., and have entirely passed the dividends on the Ordinary. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks have been offered on the traffic, and show a further decline. The receipts on the main line show a decrease of £5,590, on the Chicago and Grand Trunk of £1,581, and on the Detroit section of £157, thus making a total falling off on the combined system of £7,328. Mexican Railway issues are also flat, and considerably lower, but mining and miscellaneous shares are quiet.

The Bank of Bengal has increased its minimum rate of interest and discount from 4 to 5 per cent.

The following are the prices compared with yesterday's closing:—

In Home Railways.—*Improved*: North British ⅜, Hull and Barnsley ¼, Sheffield Deferred, and North Eastern ⅛. *Receded*: Chatham Ordinary and Preference, North Western and Midland ¼, Caledonian, Great Western, Brighton Deferred, and South Eastern Deferred ⅛.

Among Foreign Stocks.—*Advanced*: Egyptian Preference ¼, the Daira ⅛, and the Unified 1-16. *Declined*: French Four and a Half per Cents. ¼, Hungarian Gold and Russian ¼, and Peruvian 1870 1-16.

American Railroads.—*Fallen*: Milwaukee and St. Paul shares 4¼, Union Pacific ⅞, Lake Shore ¾, Erie shares ¾, the Second Mortgage ½, Northern Pacific Preference ¾, Denver Preference ¾, the Ordinary ⅜, Louisville and Nashville, and New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage ⅝, Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¾, New York Central, Norfolk and Western Preference, and Wabash Preference and Mortgage ½, Central Pacific, and Philadelphia and Reading shares ⅜.

As regards Canadian and Foreign Railways.—*Lower*: Mexican Second Preference 2¼, the Ordinary 1¾, the First Preference 1¼, Grand Trunk Second Preference 1¼, the First Preference 1⅛, the Third Preference ⅞, the Guaranteed ½, the Ordinary ⅛, Canada Pacific ¼, and Lombardo-Venetian 1-16.

Direct U.S. Cable shares are up ⅛, but Rio Tinto are down 3-16, De Beers ⅛, Mason and Barry and Imperial and Ottoman Bank 1-16.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market is less active, but a fair business is doing, and prices are practically 1-16 higher. Sales 10,000. Futures are firm at an advance of three points for September, two points for September-October, and one for other positions.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			
Consols	100¾	⅛	
New Consols 2¾	98⅛	¼	xd
Reduced 3 p. c.	99½	100	xd
Local Loan Stock	102½	3	xd
New 2½ per. Cent	95	½	xd
India 3½ per Cent.	101½	5	xd
Do. 4½ p. c. Rupee	73	¼	x int.
Egyptian Guar.	100	⅛	xd
Met. Bd. Wks. 5⅝	111½	27	xd
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	102	3	
Birmingham Crp. Stk.	110	11	
Liverpool	110¾	¼	xd
FOREIGN STOCKS.			
Argentine 6 p. c.	100	2	
Do. Hard Dols	70½	1½	
Do. Treasury	99	⅛	
Austrian Gold	91	3	
Do. Silver	87	9	
Brazilian 1875	103	4	
B. Ayres 6p. c.	102	4	
Do. Cedulas I.	61½	5	
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	100	2	
Costa Rica A.	92	3	
Do. B.	91	2	
Egypt. State Don.	101½	⅜	
Do. Unified	84½	⅝	
Do. Preference	102⅛	3½	
Do. Daira Sanieh	79⅞	30⅛	
French 3 p.c. Rnts	82¼	3¼	
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts	103¼	4¼	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	79¾	¼	
Hung. Gold Rente	82⅞	3⅛	
Italian	96⅛	⅜	
Mexican Converted	39¼	40	
Peruvian 5 p.c. 7-	14 13 16	15 16	
Do. 6 p.c.	16¼	⅜	
Portuguese	61⅜	⅝	
Russian 1873	98½	⅜	
Spanish 4 p. c.	74⅜	⅛	
Turkish 1854	100	2	
Group 1	24¼	5¼	
Group 2	15¼	10	
Groups 3 and 4	14⅞	15⅝	xd
4½ p. c. 1871	86½	7	
5 p. c. Defence	97½	8	
5 p. c. Priority	83	5	
Uruguay Unified	70	½	
Virginia Funded	41½	2½	
U.S. 4½ p.c.	108½	9¼	
BRITISH RAILWAYS			
Caledonian	112½	⅝	
Great Eastern	70⅞	⅜	
Great Northern	117	18	
Ditto A	104½	5½	
Great Western	147	¼	
Hull and Barnsley	121¼	2¾	
Lanc. and York	119	20	
Brighton (Ordinary)	140	2	
Do. A	126¼	7¼	
Chatham (Ordinary)	23⅞	4⅛	
Do. Preference	102	⅛	
North Western	170	¾	
South Western	137	8	
Manchester & Shef.	70	2	
Do. A.	38¼	¼	
Met. Consolidated	75	⅛	
Do. Land Stock	70½	1⅛	
Do. District	34¾	¼	
Midland	133	¼	
North British	118¾	19¼	
North Eastern	160	¼	
North Stafford	112	13	
South Eastern	131	3	
Do. Deferred	103¼	9¼	
FOREIGN RAILWAYS			
Canada Pacific	58⅛	⅞	
Cen. Pacific Shares	37	⅛	
Chic. Mil. and St. P.	68⅝	⅞	
Denver & R. Grande	20	¼	
Do. Pref.	52¼	¼	
Illinois Shares	122½	¼	
Lake Shore	100⅜	¼	
Ohio & Mississippi	25¼	6¼	
Louis. and Nash.	61¼	⅜	
Mex. Cen. Bonds	68½	9	
Do. Nat "A"	63½	9	
Miss. Kan. & Texas	13¼	¼	
N. Y. Cen. Share	111¼	¾	
New York Ontario	17⅜	¼	
Erie Shares	25⅛	⅜	
Do. Sec. Mort.	103¼	¾	
Norfolk & West. Pref	58½	⅜	
N. Y. P. & O. 1st M.	39½	40	
North. Pacific Pref	63¼	4¼	
Pennsylvania Sh.	57	¼	
Phil. and Read. Sh.	26⅞	7⅛	
Union Pacific Shares	62	⅛	
Wabash Preferred	27¼	8	
Do. Gen. Mort.	44⅜	5	
Grand Trunk Sh.	10½	⅛	
Do. First Pref.	63⅜	⅝	
Do. Second Pref.	43	½	
Do. Third Pref.	24¾	⅜	
Do. Guaranteed	68⅛	9	
Mexican Ordinary	47⅛	⅜	
Do First Pref	118⅜	19½	
Ob. do. 2nd Pref	78¼	9¼	
Lombardo-Venetian	8⅞	9⅛	
Varna 3 per cent	7	¼	
Nitrate Railway	25¼	6	
BANKS.			
Alliance Bank	133¼	14¼	
City Bank	200⅛	1½	
Consolidated Bank	7¼	8¼	
Imperial Ottoman	111⅝	⅞	
London and County	85	6	
Union of London	40	1	
London and West.	66½	7½	
London Joint Stock	39½	40½	
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	42½	3½	
Stand. Bnk. S. Afric	50⅜	1½	
MINES			
Indian Consolidated	⅛	½	
Mysore shares	3 3 16	5 16	
Ooregums	1⅛	⅛	
Cape Copper	4⅞	5⅛	
Namaqua	3	¼	
Mason and Barry	10⅞	11⅛	
Rio Tinto	22⅝	⅞	
Montana £1 shares	1⅛	¼	
De Beers	31½	⅜	
Kimberley Cent	35⅜	6	
TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.			
Anglo-American	42½	3½	
Do. Pref.	71½	2½	
Brazilian Submarine	13	¼	
Direct Unit. States	9⅞	10⅛	
Eastern	12⅛	⅜	
Ditto Extension	13	¼	
United Telephone	13¼	⅛	
Globe Teleg. Trust	7	¼	
TRAMWAYS ETC			
London Gen. Om	183	90	
London Street	11½	12½	
London Tramway	13	14	
North Metropolitan	15	17	
WATERWORKS.			
Chelsea Waterworks	260	5	
East London	197	202	
Grand Junction	124	8	
Kent	269	74	
Lambeth	259	64	
New River, New	347	52	
S'thwrk. & Vauxhal	163	8	
W. Middlesex	264	9	
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.			
Gaslight & Coke A	252	6	
Imp. Continental	208	11	
South Metropolitan	306	11	
Brush Elec Lt (£4 pd)	2¼	3¼	
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Allsopp	8¼	⅛	
Guinness and Co.	305	10	
Hotchkiss	9¾	10	
Bryant and May	12¼	13	
Spratt's Patent	9¼	10	
P. and O. Steam	65	7	
Royal Mail Steam	64	7	
Nat. Discount Co.	11½	12	
Hudson's Bay	15¾	21¼	
Suez Canal	87⅞	8	
E. & W. Ind. Docks	25	7	
London and St. K.	43	5	

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

A SKETCH OF THE ASTRONOMER'S LIFE.

A Reuter's telegram from New York states that Mr. R. A. Proctor, the well known astronomer, died yesterday at a private hospital in that city, of yellow fever, contracted recently in Florida.

Richard Anthony Proctor was born at Chelsea on the 23rd March, 1837, so that at the time of his death he was not much more than fifty years of age. In youth he was delicate, and his education was begun and continued for some time at home. Subsequently, however, he studied at King's College, London, whence he proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge. At this time he developed that taste for higher mathematics which he retained throughout his life. The discussion in a scientific manner of questions of probability had the greatest attraction for him, as also had the more scientific recreations, such as whist, &c. But astronomy is the study to which he devoted his life; and at twenty-nine years of age his attainments were such as to gain for him the honour of a Fellowship of the Royal Astronomical Society. Six years later (1872) he became their Honorary Secretary and Editor of the Proceedings of the Society. He held both positions for a year or so, when he was compelled through multiplicity of engagements to resign them. He became an Honorary Fellow of King's College in 1873. Since that time he has worked arduously as an observer of the heavens, giving the results to the world in the form of lectures, articles, and books.

The important cause of the popularization of science—and especially the popularization of astronomy—will lose a most valuable worker in Mr. Proctor. In order that the people might have correct science served up in a readable form Mr. Proctor established *Knowledge*, as a weekly journal, in 1881. It became a monthly in 1885, in which form it has continued up to the present time. Hence, also, lecturing tours in this country, and in America and Australia. Many of Mr. Proctor's contributions to our scientific literature are of a popular character. Such, for example, are "Half Hours with the Telescope" (1868); "Half Hours with the Stars" (1869); "Light Science for Leisure Hours" and "Elementary Astronomy" (1871). His essays on "Whist" and on "Strength and Happiness" fall within the same category.

All the books which Mr. Proctor has written, all the conclusions to which he has arrived, and all the theories which he has propounded, were considered by him to be no more than means to an end. That end was a colossal, complete, and definitive treatise on the science of astronomy as understood by Mr. Proctor. It is even now in course of publication in monthly parts by Messrs. Longman. One can only hope that the astronomer has completed it, or that such materials are left behind as to render its completion by a friend possible. Mr. Proctor was due to give a course of lectures in London this autumn, and would probably have arrived here in a few weeks.

Mention must be made of Mr. Proctor's work in connection with the survey of the heavens. His work will no doubt be superseded by the new photographic chart in the course of preparation; but it is no light task to catalogue and chart 324,000 fixed stars, as was done by the astronomer who has just died. Able in an eminent degree as an astronomer and mathematician, he had sympathies beyond these immediate studies. One may be mentioned. He persistently advocated the Hamiltonian method of learning languages, saying that on one occasion he learnt enough German to read and review a scientific work by three weeks' constant use of interlinear translations. This is only one among many peculiar theories and ideas which he held. If, as Young has remarked in the "Night Thoughts," "the undevout astronomer is mad," there could be no question of Mr. Proctor's sanity on the ground of devotion. As his knowledge of the marvels of the Infinite increased, so his conception of the greatness of the Supreme cause widened; and in this, as in other respects, he deserves to be long remembered as a worthy student of natural science.

THE FIRST STEP IN THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

At the preliminary meeting of the Commission of Judges, to be held on Monday next, Sir Charles Russell, on behalf of Mr. Parnell and other Irish members, will move the court to give them access to the letters alleged to have been written by Mr. Parnell and Mr. Patrick Egan, and also to obtain photographic copies. Further applications will be made to compel the defendants in the action of O'Donnell *v.* Walter to furnish particulars of the charges, if any, alleged against each of the members who comprise the Irish party; also of the specific charges against "other persons" mentioned in the Act which constitutes the Commission.

In consequence of the limited accommodation afforded by the court, as well as the large number of applications which have been made for seats, the Secretary to the Commission has had a task of considerable difficulty in providing for the wants of all. With the exception of the two front benches, reserved for the use of counsel engaged in the case, and the solicitors' tables in the well of the court, the whole of the body of the court has been given up to the press. The only available space for the public will be the small gallery overhead, which cannot accommodate more than a hundred persons.

TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts of the undermentioned companies for the week ended Sept. 9, compared with the corresponding week last year, are as follows:—

Railways.	Increase.	Decrease.
Brighton	£1,943	—
Caledonian	5,586	—
Chatham and Dover	1,096	—
Eastern and Mid.	—	£30
Great Eastern	—	327
Great Northern	—	950
Great Western	4,940	—
Hull and Barnsley	338	—
Lanc. and Yorkshire	366	—
Manc. and Sheffield	365	—
Metropolitan	478	—
Metropolitn. District	209	—
Midland	6,990	—
North British	5,632	—
North Eastern	9,002	—
North Stafford	211	—
North Western	5,134	—
South Eastern	2,969	—
South Western	1,435	—
Tilbury	—	34

Tramways.	Increase.	Decrease.
Belfast	£81	—
Bordeaux Tr. & Om.	—	£51
Bristol	168	—
Calais	—	6
Dublin	319	—
Edinburgh	250	—
Germany	206	—
Glasgow Tr. & Om.	1,397	—
Gothenburg	—	8
Hull Street	11	—
Imperial	40	—
London	102	—
London Street	134	—
London Southern	26	—
North Metropolitan	222	—
Provincial	897	—
Sheffield	22	—
Southampton	—	7
South London	—	39
Sunderland	84	—
Swansea, &c.	34	—
Wolverhampton	15	—

TO STOUT PEOPLE.—*Sunday Times* says:—"Mr. Russell's aim is to eradicate, to cure the disease, and that his treatment is the true one seems beyond all doubt. The medicine he prescribes does not lower, but builds up and tones the system." Book (116 pages) with recipe and notes how to pleasantly and rapidly cure obesity (average reduction in first week is 3 lb.), post free eight stamps.—F. C. RUSSELL, Woburn House, Store street, Bedford-square, London, W.C.

THE ST. ASAPH DIOCESAN CONFERENCE.

A correspondent writing last night from Corwen says:—The first day's proceedings were mainly formal. The Dean read the Bishop's opening address, prepared before his illness, in which his lordship reviewed the hindrances to the progress of the Church in Wales, and he incidentally condemned the clergy being magistrates. A resolution of sympathy with his lordship and his family in his illness was unanimously passed. Mr. Trevor Parkins, in presenting the report of the executive committee, expressed his strong regret that the Government had not pushed on their Tithe Bill. The talk here is wholly as to the broad and liberal sermon of the Rev. Herbert Ryle, Hulsean Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, in which he urged that the Church might be the glory of this democratic age if she would simplify her services and use more lay agency. Mr. Lewis, in moving a vote of thanks to the preacher, expressed his profound satisfaction at having lived to hear one bearing the name of Ryle quoting with approval a saying of Cardinal Manning.

On the conference resuming this morning, a paper was read by the Rev. D. Williams on hindrances to Church work, and another by the Dean of St. Asaph on the formation of an association for conducting parochial missions. Mr. Stanley Leighton will speak this afternoon on clergy pensions, and the Postmaster-General in the evening on the historical claims of the Welsh Church on the Welsh people.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN AND LORD LANSDOWNE.

Mr. William O'Brien writes to *United Ireland* and the *Freeman's Journal* to-day, giving an account of certain abortive negotiations which he has had with Lord Lansdowne's agent. When Lord Lansdowne visited Ireland after his return from Canada, his agent approached Mr. O'Brien with a view to settling the dispute with the Luggacurran tenantry. Certain favourable terms were agreed to by the parties at an interview, and all seemed well. Subsequently, however, the agent wrote demanding the immediate payment of a year's rent as the *sine quâ non* of any settlement. There was no time for Mr. O'Brien to communicate with the tenants concerning the matter, and eviction notices were served. "It is unfortunately only too easy to show," remarks Mr. O'Brien, "that it was from beginning to end simply a piece of low cunning to spike our guns during Lord Lansdowne's visit to the country. Mr. Trench well knew that but for the flag of truce which he held out, Lord Lansdowne would have been haunted by his deeds in Luggacurran from the moment he set foot on Irish soil until the moment he quitted it, and his Canadian experiences make him sensitive to the experiences of a haunted man."

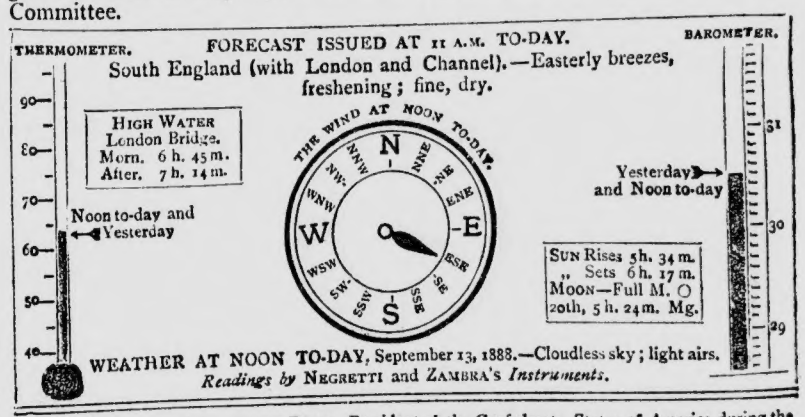
RIVER RIGHTS IN SURREY.

A public meeting was held at East Moulsey, last night, convened by the Esher and Hersham Defence Committee, to take into consideration the question of the reopening of the river Mole. A large number of interested persons assembled. Mr. Scott, committee secretary, presided. Mr. Noton, solicitor, proposed, "That the fixing of the chains, barbed wire, and other obstacles across the river Mole between the Thames and Cobham bridge is a gross and wanton encroachment upon public rights and privileges which have been enjoyed from time immemorial." He had searched the British Museum and declared the Mole belonged to the Crown. Captain Hotham bought the right of fishing there from the Crown, but did not exercise it exclusively. The Hon. H. Bourke had no right to stop anyone using it. The motion being seconded was carried, and it was also resolved to take all needful measures to remove all obstructions, and to secure the free passage of the Mole as heretofore. A representative committee was formed to carry out the foregoing resolution, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE MYSTERIOUS ARM IN THE THAMES.—Careful consideration of all the circumstances connected with the finding of the human arm in the Thames has strengthened the belief that there is a crime at the bottom of this mystery. The surgeon is most emphatic in his declaration that the arm has not been severed from the body for "scientific purposes," and this would seem to dispose of the idea that the throwing of the limb into the Thames is part of a joke on the part of medical students for the purpose of heightening the public alarm at a particular moment. The most diligent search is being made on land and water.

LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE.—At Chester Petty Sessions yesterday morning, Richard Parry, a respectably dressed lad of sixteen, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for assaulting his sister. As prisoner was being led towards the cells, he sprang from the grip of the police-officer and ran across the court towards his sister, who was passing through the doorway, and the police failed to secure him before he had violently struck her with his clenched fist. The youth was immediately brought back into court, and although he coolly denied that he had hit her, he was bound over in two sureties to be of good behaviour for six months, in addition to the sentence he had already received.

THE WHITWORTH CHARITIES.—A further list of gifts out of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth's estate was announced yesterday, amounting to over £25,000. The Manchester School of Art and the High School for Girls each get £2,000 for the endowment of scholarships; the Grammar School at Derby and the Derby Infirmary have £2,000 each, and gifts to the same amount go to the Manchester Boys' and Girls' Refuges and the Manchester Clinical Hospital. Gifts of £1,000 each are made to the Girls' Industrial School at Stockport, to the Stockport Infirmary, and to eight Manchester institutions. £500 each is given to the Lock Hospital, the Southern Hospital, and the Ancoats Recreation Committee.



THE HONOURABLE JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America during the late Civil War, writing to Messrs FRY'S agent, says:—"The samples of Cocoa which you kindly sent have been received safely, and have been tried by my family, who consider the different preparations of Cocoa unusually delicate and agreeable." Ask your Grocer for a sample of FRY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA and copy of Testimonials.

TAKING THE MEASURE OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AT BATH.

THE secretary of the Anthropological Section, who read one of the papers on the closing day of the proceedings at Bath, may be described as a man who has "taken the measure" of the British Associates. This gentleman, Mr. Bloxam, has told me all about it—how he did it and what it came to—in a most interesting conversation, from which the following notes were taken. First, however, it may be of interest, from its connection with a pending controversy of much heat between the Big-endians and the Little-endians of female attire, to relate how it was that I came in the way of the kind explanations of Mr. Bloxam. It was the last great day of the feast at which Corinthian Bath turned Athenian for the nonce, has been entertaining the illuminati of the British Association. Already the footprints of Science were beginning to pass away from the streets, and the stir in the aristocratic city—unequalled since the days when our great-grandmothers flocked to see Beau Nash appear in a new cravat at the Pump Room—was beginning to subside. Suddenly my eye was caught by a notice, prominently posted, to the following effect :—

Lady members whose habit it is to avoid the use of stays, and also any who may be able to dispense with them for the special occasion, are requested to call at the Anthropometrical Laboratory in order to have their breathing power tested.

Scarcely had I read the words when up walked a pair of smart young ladies who were obviously *not* of those "whose habit it is," &c. These young ladies did not seem to approve of the notice, innocent enough in itself to all seeming, but evidently judged to overlie some dark design. The pair tossed their heads, with an observation of scorn, and passed on. Plainly, they were not on the way to the Laboratory. But within two minutes I was. There I found a number of ladies, some no doubt of either camp, courting the ordeal, while the momentous statistics were being slowly accumulated with the aid of a number of "try-your-weight" and other machines. I am sorry that I cannot give an interim report of the results as far as they had gone, or even surmise whether or not they promised to prove the connection between fashionable deformity and organic weakness. But I there met with the energetic secretary who so kindly enlarged upon his text of the morning. On the last occasion of the assembling of the society a number of experiments were made in an anthropometrical department then first established by the Association, to determine the general physique of a particular class. That class was the class of the Associates themselves. The "British Ass.es," as they are wont facetiously to call themselves, evidently consider that anthropometry properly begins at home. They may now with the better grace pursue the interesting work of inquiry which has been set afoot into the physical effects of various manual employments and conditions of work. Mr. Bloxam's results are arrived at, by means which shall be explained, from "taking the measure" of 200 "British Ass.es," at their last meeting at Manchester; 102 were male and 98 female. Proportions of these may therefore be regarded roughly as percentages. There are a few data which we may assume as to the place of the class in question in the general economy. The British Ass. (I hope the printer will be careful about that full stop) is at least well-off enough to be able to fritter away his yearly pound on scientific illumination. He or she must also be fairly educated, or they would not care to do so. Very probably they are the children of parents of scientific tastes. And the subjects who presented themselves were aged, the men mostly 41-42, the women mostly ten years younger—30-32. (I did not ask how, in the face of immemorial convention, these latter figures were obtained.) On the whole, the class may be defined as mainly professional middle-class. The Ass.es and the masses have little connection, it appears. I asked if the Association was not swelled from the Artisans' Technical Institutes up and down the country, but I was assured not.

I.—"IN YOUR SOCKS."

The learned Association boasts one member of the unusual height of 81 inches. Putting this gentleman aside—I believe he also proved too much for the spirometer's capacities—as coming rather under the head of giants, certainly *over* the head of common mortals, the following are the average heights: Man, 5 ft. 8 in.; woman, 5 ft. 4 in. This is believed to compare favourably in both cases with the average stature of the millions generally, who are "mostly fools" without being "British Ass.es."

II. "TRY YOUR WEIGHT!"

The mean weight was—for men, 11 st.; for women, 9 st. The maximum and minimum weights measured were—For men, 16 and 7 st.; for women, 13 and 6 st.

III.—KEENNESS OF SIGHT.

The test adopted was Galton's, of reading "Diamond" type at 6, 9, 12 inches, &c. This gave three degrees of sight efficiency, to which the two sexes were allotted in the following percentages :—

	Right Eye.		Left Eye.	
	M.	W.	M.	W.
Short-sighted	17.9	19.8	22.4	19.1
Good sight...	70.2	65.9	63.4	66.3
Long sight	11.9	14.3	14.2	14.6

Here then, on the whole, the women have very slightly the best of it. Possibly their eyes are sharpened by threading needles. Men are supposed to try their eyes more than women. Curiously enough, the woman's strong point seems to be the left eye, the man's the right. The following were the figures :—

	M.	W.
Right eye equal to left	26	31
Right eye stronger than left	35	28
Right eye weaker than left	24	28

On the whole, the right eye is keener and stronger than the left. The small proportion of cases in which the eyes do equal work surprises the lay mind. The above figures, I should add, exclude certain exceptional cases, such as fifteen men and seven women who were obviously losing their eyesight from age. Two young women under twenty-five were suffering from myopia, or shortsightedness with a scientific name. They could not read diamond type at six inches.

IV.—AN EYE FOR PROPORTION.

The tests for "a good eye" were to mark off one half of a rod, and one-third; also to judge a right angle. The last of these is the easiest in practice; the second the hardest. Here the men had much the best of it. Taking as an example the halving test, and marking the amount of error by a decimal representing the fraction of the whole space, we find 23 men and 15 women giving the minimum wrong—that is, .4 or less. Then 14 men and 22 women are badly out—2.5 or more. The general result is that the majority of men actually did as well as the best women. Mr. Bloxam says that the latter seem less ready at grasping the mathematical meaning of what they are told to do. Carpenters, of course, have constant training in this kind of thing. But the British workman is too fond of his rule. He can rarely hang a picture straight without it, or with it unless he also makes a pencil mark on one's wall paper.

V.—"TRY YOUR STRENGTH!"

In strength of squeeze, tested by an automatic register compressed in the hand, the men of course beat utterly. Expressed in kilos the figures are :—

	M.	W.
Maximum power.....	55—60	15—20
Minimum power	40—45	10—15
Mean power	35—40	20—25

Unfortunately, no record seems to have been kept of left-handedness. I saw one man who was being tested preferring to squeeze with his left.

VI.—BRAIN-PAN.

It is, of course, little use to compare sizes in heads—none as between men and women. But Mr. Bloxam has registered what is called the "cephalic index." This is a fraction indicating the shape of the head, the length (from front to back) being divided into the breadth. The points of measurement lie on the ordinary hatter's line. The mean fractions, which apply respectively to eighty-one men and seventy-eight women, are :—Men, .80; women, .78. Generalizing, one may say that the men, who are wont to claim superior business cunning, are literally more long-headed ("dolichocephalic"); while the women, if not Puritans, may be fairly dubbed "Round-heads" (mesitocephalic").

VII.—LUNGS VERSUS CORSETS.

The next and last test which was applied related to breathing power, and some of its results as measured by the spirometer were so remarkable that I have copied Mr. Bloxam's figures in full :—

Ages.	Men.	Metres.	Women.	Metres.
20—30	20	411	31	245
30—40	11	366	20	214
40—50	14	345	12	217
50—60	9	321	4	217
Over 60	8	265		

Now, notice first that your old man of over sixty years of age breathes stronger than your champion young woman of between twenty and thirty in the prime of life. That is striking. But what is more so is that whereas as the man grows older his breathing power gradually and steadily decreases, the woman's decreases only up to about forty. After that it actually increases to a certain point, and there stops constant. Here are the strengths at the four periods ranged one above the other :—

Men	411	366	345	321
Women	245	214	217	217

Here are two things to be accounted for. "Nothing simpler, to my mind," said Mr. Bloxam: "already at twenty the average girl has constricted her body with stays. She continues thus to diminish her natural power till about forty. Soon after that most women probably cease to pinch themselves in with tight corsets, and sturdy Nature reasserts herself. Up goes the breathing power to a quasi-normal point, and there it stops, maturity preventing further development." After this, even the most flippant trifler with asphyxia can only exclaim, "Stays? Of corset is!" and await with serious interest the new statistics of Stayists versus Non-stayists.

"THE MOST WONDERFUL OLD LADY" IN LONDON.

"I must tell you," writes Mr. L. C. Moulton to the *Boston Sunday Herald*, "of meeting Mrs. Keeley at luncheon last week. I had read Mr. Ashby-Sterry's graceful letter about her in 'The Book Buyer,' and I chanced to say to a friend that I would give a good deal to see a woman of eighty-four who would answer Mr. Sterry's description. He remarks that in calling on Mrs. Keeley lately he heard her say she was a little tired, and on inquiry found that the previous day she had been to the private view at the Royal Academy, and after that to a crowded 'at home,' and had never sat down from one o'clock till past eight at night. I think you will agree with me that a lady of eighty-four, who could stand for over seven hours on a stretch, looking at pictures and talking to people, is a legitimate object of interest. I thought the sight of her might do something to reconcile one to the flight of time; and this I chanced to say to a charming woman, who to my surprise, proved to be one of Mrs. Keeley's intimate friends. A little party for luncheon was at once arranged, and I spent a couple of hours in the society of, as I fully believe, the most wonderful old lady left in London since the death of Mrs. Procter last winter. What is the secret of Mrs. Keeley's youthfulness, I wonder? Has she, by chance, found the elixir so many sages have vainly sought? She was a popular actress in London more than fifty years ago; and quite recently she spoke at the Haymarket Theatre some fifty rhymed lines by Mr. Ashby-Sterry, giving the right value to every word, the right importance to every phrase, rendering the thing, in short, as well as she could have done in her youth. She is a busy creature. She does no end of fancy needlework, she is an enthusiastic and successful gardener, and she is keen at whist, and reads all the best books. Life could hardly be fuller and happier than hers, and really, to look at her, one sees no reason why she should not go on living for ever. Her figure is as youthful as at twenty-five, and her bright, good-humoured face is like a little dried-up winter apple. How delightful her 'Reminiscences' will be some day!"

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.15,
Mr RICHARD MANSFIELD in
DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.

MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

NEXT WEEK, DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE at 9. Preceded at 8 by LESBIA, Classical Comedy in One Act.—Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily from 10 to 5.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BEERBOHM TREE.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 precisely, the new original Drama, by Mr. HADDON CHAMBERS, entitled "CAPTAIN SWIFT." Mr. Tree, Mr. Macklin, Mr. Kemble, Mr. Fuller Mellish, Mr. Allan, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Brookfield; Lady Monckton, Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Cudmore, and Mrs. Tree. Preceded, at 7.50, by THAT DREADFUL DOCTOR. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open daily, 10 till 5.

CRITERION THEATRE.

(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)

BETSY, EVERY EVENING, at 9. Preceded by, at 8.10, THE DOWAGER. Doors open at 7.45. N.B.—Stage and Auditorium Lighted entirely by Electricity.

ADELPHI THEATRE.

(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)

THIS EVENING, at Eight, THE UNION JACK. 51st Time. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, L. Cautley, D. Somers, H. Russell, E. Lennox, &c.; Miss Millward; Mesdames Helen Forsyth, O. Nethersole, D. Drummond, E. Button, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, THE LOTTERY TICKET.

TERRY'S THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)

(Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. BRICKWELL.)

The safest and coolest Theatre in London, constructed entirely with concrete and iron, absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout with electricity.

TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A. W. PINERO's New Three Act Domestic Drama, SWEET LAVENDER. 181st Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, T. C. Valentine, Bernard Gould, F. Kerr, Sant Matthews; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, Eva Wilson. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Seats at the Libraries and Box-office, open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.

GLOBE THEATRE.

(Lessees and Managers, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE and Miss EDITH WOODWORTH.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.45, BOOTLES' BABY. 114th Time. Messrs. Charles Sugden, C. W. Garthorne, A. Elwood, Gilbert Farquhar, Forbes Dawson, A. J. Byde, C. Kent, and Charles Collette; Mesdames Webster, Henrietta Lindley, Rose Evelyn, F. Henry, Minnie Terry. At 7.45, TRUE COLOURS. Messrs. Forbes Dawson, A. J. Byde; Mesdames Gilliard and Florence Henry.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)

EVERY EVENING, at 7.40, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF.
At 8.30, punctually, DOROTHY. (720th Performance.)
Mesdames Marie Tempest, Florence Perry, Harriet Coveney, F. Neville, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, S. King, and C. Hayden Coffin. Musical Director, M. Ivan Caryll. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open from 10 till 5.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

ITALIAN EXHIBITION.

In Concert Hall and Theatre, FRATELLI PRANDI's MARIONETTES, "RODOPE" and "THE LIVING SKELETON," at 3 and 7.30 P.M. The NEAPOLITAN MANDOLINISTS at 4.30 and 9 P.M.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

GRAND BALLET. FAIRY SCENES of "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM," THIS and EVERY EVENING. Marvellous Success. Arranged and produced by Madame Katti Lanner and Mr. Oscar Barrett. Can be witnessed by thousands without extra payment.

SAVOY.—Proprietor and Manager, R. D'OYLY CARTE. — THIS EVENING at 8.30, THE MIKADO, Japanese Opera. By W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN, At 7.30, MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Box-office open from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M.

SAVOY.—THE MIKADO.—THIS and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, and SATURDAY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, until further notice.

SAVOY.—LAST WEEKS of THE MIKADO.

COMEDY THEATRE. — TO-NIGHT, at 9 o'clock, a New Farcical Comedy, in three acts, entitled UNCLES AND AUNTS, by W. LESTOCQ and WALTER EVERARD. Mr. W. S. Penley, Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, Mr. W. F. Hawtrey, Mr. Walter Everard, and Mr. W. Lestocq. Miss Cissy Grahame, Miss Maria Daly, Miss Caroline Elton, Miss Kate Lee, and Miss Vane Featherston. Preceded by, at 8, BARBARA. Messrs. A. G. Andrews, Norman Lent, Misses May Scarlet and Cissy Grahame.—Business Manager, Mr. E. F. BRADLEY.

UNCLES AND AUNTS, TO-NIGHT, at 9. FIRST MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, September 15, at 3 o'clock.

NIAGARA IN LONDON. COLOSSAL PICTURE of the GREAT FALLS, original effects, by PHILIPPOTEAUX. Pleasant Lounge, Music, American Museum, Electric Light. Refreshments by Beguinot. Admission 1s. No fees. 10 to 10.—YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER, St. James's Park Station.

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FREEMAN THOMAS' SEVENTH ANNUAL SERIES of PROMENADE CONCERTS.
THIS EVENING, at 8.0. ADMISSION ONE SHILLING.
Grand Orchestra of 150 Performers and Band of the Coldstream Guards combined.
Conductor: Mr. A. GWYLLYM CROWE.
SMOKING LOUNGES IN ALL PARTS OF THE THEATRE.
Vocalists This Evening:—Mdme. CLARA SAMUELL and Signor FOLI. Mr. EDWARD HOWELL (Solo Violoncello). Mr. HOWARD REYNOLDS (Solo Cornet).
Prices of admission:—Private Boxes from 10s. 6d. to £3 3s.; Grand Circle seats (numbered and reserved), 2s. 6d.; First Circle (numbered and reserved), 2s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, Amphitheatre, and Promenade, One Shilling. Doors open 7.30; commence at 8.0. Box-office open daily 10 to 5.
NOTE.—TO-MORROW (Fri a), Vocalists:—Mdme. ROSE HERSEE, Mdme. ANTOINETTE STERLING, and Mr. SIMS REEVES.

ALLY SLOPER and his distinguished Family, including Mrs. Sloper, Master Alexandry Sloper, Iky Moses, the Elder McNab, Mr. McGooseley, Lord Bob, and Miss Tootsie Sloper will visit
FREEMAN THOMAS' PROMENADE CONCERTS, THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN, TO-MORROW (Friday), September 14.
TOOTSIE SLOPER'S POLKA, composed by A. GWYLLYM CROWE, will be performed by special desire of THE EMINENT.

GAIETY THEATRE.—"SHE." A great success.
Manageress, Miss SOPHIE EYRE.

GAIETY.—"SHE."—A Great Success.—TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING at 8, a Romantic Play from the celebrated Novel of H. Rider Haggard, dramatised by permission by Mr. Edward Rose, rewritten and adapted for Miss Eyre by Mr. WILLIAM SIDNEY and CLO GRAVES. Miss Eyre, Misses Fanny Enson, Elliott, Enid Leslie, Wilson, Vyse, Graves, and Miss Mary Rorke; Messrs. Julian Cross, Edmund Gurney, E. Cleary, H. Maxwell, James East, Glyn, Wynn, and Mr. Edmund Maurice. Box-office open daily from 10 till 6. Prices from 1s. to £4 4s. Manager, Mr. EUGENE C. STAFFORD.—GAIETY THEATRE.

GAIETY.—"SHE."—Miss SOPHIE EYRE as SHE.
MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, SEPTEMBER 15, at 2.30.

GAIETY.—"SHE."
"In earth and skie and sea
Strange thynges ther be."—"SHE."

DRURY LANE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager,
Will REOPEN on SATURDAY, September 22.
With a New Grand Spectacular Drama, entitled
THE ARMADA,
A Romance of 1588.
By HENRY HAMILTON and AUGUSTUS HARRIS.

COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mrs. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH. Manageress, Mrs. JOHN WOOD.—Will Open for the Season on MONDAY, Sept. 24th, on which occasion will be produced (by arrangement with Mr. John Hare) an adaptation of LES SURPRISES DU DIVORCE, by SYDNEY GRUNDY, entitled MAMMA. Box office now open, 10 to 5.

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THE HORSE SHOW.
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THE DAIRY SHOW.
THE SHOW OF KERRY COWS, BULLS, AND HEIFERS.
THE OLD IRISH MARKET PLACE.
THE BRITISH ARMY QUADRILLES BY FOUR MILITARY BANDS AND PIPERS AND DRUMMERS OF THE SCOTS GUARDS.
THE FINE ART DEPARTMENT AND LOAN COLLECTION.
THE ROCKS, CAVES, AND DRIPPING WELL.
THE RUINS OF BLARNEY CASTLE.
ILLUMINATIONS AND FIREWORKS EVERY EVENING.
PERFORMANCES BY HERCAT IN ROYAL IRISH THEATRE.
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RECITALS ON WEDLAKE'S ORGAN.

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COCOATINA.

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The Mystery of Cloomber.

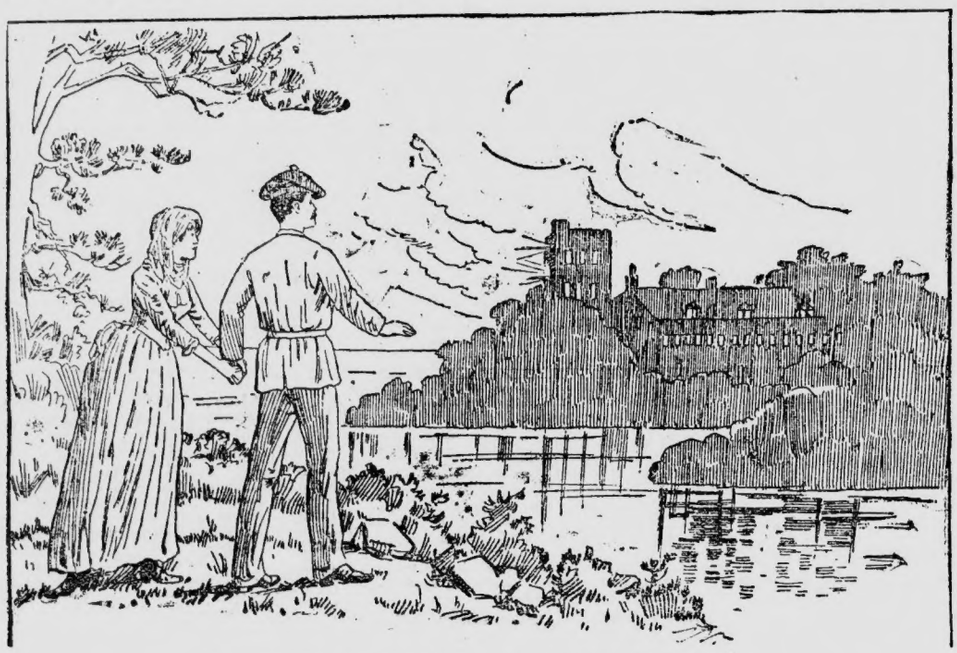
By A. CONAN DOYLE.

"There is a scientific incredulity which surpasses in imbecility the obtuseness of the clodhopper.
BARON HELLENBACH.

CHAPTER V. *(continued).*

I had always refrained from saying anything which might alarm my sister, so that she knew nothing of the interest which our neighbours' doings had for me. At her request I took my hat and followed her out into the darkness. She led the way along a little footpath over the moor, which brought us to some rising ground, from which we could look down upon the Hall without our view being obstructed by any of the fir-trees which had been planted round it. "Look at that," said my sister, pausing at the summit of this little eminence.

Cloomber lay beneath us in a blaze of light. In the lower floors the shutters obscured the illumination; but above, from the broad windows of the second story to the thin slits at the summit of the tower there was not a chink or an aperture which did not send forth a stream of radiance. So dazzling was the effect that for a moment I was persuaded that the house was on fire, but the steadiness and clearness of the light soon freed me from that apprehension. It was clearly the result of many lamps placed systematically all over the building. It added to the strange effect that all these brilliantly illuminated rooms were



"CLOOMBER LAY BENEATH US IN A BLAZE OF LIGHT."

apparently untenanted, and some of them, as far as we could judge, were not even furnished. Through the whole great house there was no sign of movement or of life—nothing but the clear, unwinking flood of yellow light. I was still lost in wonder at the sight when I heard a short, quick sob at my side.

"What is it, Esther, dear?" I asked, looking down at my companion.

"I feel so frightened. Oh, John, John, take me home; I feel so frightened!" She clung to my arm, and pulled at my coat in a perfect frenzy of fear.

"It's all safe, darling," I said, soothingly. "There is nothing to fear. What has upset you so?"

"I am afraid of them, John; I am afraid of the Heatherstones. Why is their house lit up like this every night? I have heard from others that it is always so. And why does the old man run like a frightened hare if any one comes upon him? There is something wrong about it, John, and it frightens me."

I pacified her as well as I could, and led her home with me, where I took care that she should have some hot port negus before going to bed. I avoided the subject of the Heatherstones for fear of exciting her, and she did not recur to it of her own accord. I was convinced, however, from what I had heard from her that she had for some time back been making her own observations upon our neighbours, and that in doing so she had put a considerable strain upon her nerves. I could see that the mere fact of the Hall being illuminated at night was not enough to account for her extreme agitation, and that it must have derived its importance in her eyes from being one in a chain of incidents, all of which had left a weird or unpleasant impression upon her mind. That was the conclusion which I came to at the time, and I have reason to know now that I was right, and that my sister had even more cause than I had myself for believing that there was something uncanny about the tenants of Cloomber.

Our interest in the matter may have arisen at first from nothing higher than curiosity; but events soon took a turn which associated us more closely with the fortunes of the Heatherstone family. Mordaunt had taken advantage of my invitation to come down to the laird's house, and on several occasions he brought with him his beautiful sister. The four of us would wander over the moors together; or, perhaps, if the day were fine, set sail upon our little skiff and stand off into the Irish Sea. On such excursions the brother and sister would be as merry and as happy as two children. It was a keen pleasure to them to escape from their dull fortress, and to see, if only for a few hours, friendly and sympathetic faces around them. There could be but one result when four young people were brought together in sweet forbidden intercourse. Acquaintanceship warmed into friendship, and friendship flamed suddenly into love. Gabrielle sits beside me now as I write, and she agrees with me that, dear as is the subject to ourselves, the whole story of our mutual affection is of too personal a nature to be more than touched upon in this statement. Suffice it to say that, within a few weeks of our first meeting, Mordaunt Heatherstone had won the heart of my dear sister, and Gabrielle had given me that pledge which death itself will not be able to break.

I have alluded in this brief way to the double tie which sprang up between the two families because I have no wish that this narrative should degenerate into anything approaching to romance or that I should lose the thread of the facts which I have set myself to chronicle. These are connected with General Heatherstone and only indirectly with my own personal history. It is enough if I say that after our engagement the visits to Branksome became more frequent, and that our friends were able sometimes to spend a whole day with us when business had called the General to Wigtown, or when his gout confined him to his room. As to our good father, he was ever ready to greet us with many small jests appropriate to the occasion; for we had no secrets from him, and he already looked upon us all as his children.

There were times when on account of some peculiarly dark or restless fit of the General's it was impossible for weeks on end for either Gabrielle or Mordaunt to get away from the grounds. The old man would even stand on guard at the avenue gate, or pace up and down the drive as though he suspected that attempts had been made to penetrate his seclusion. Passing of an evening I have seen his dark, grim figure flitting about in the shadow of the trees, or caught a glimpse of his hard angular face peering out at me from behind the bars. My heart would often sadden for him as I noticed his uncouth nervous movements, his furtive glances and twitching features. Who would have believed that this slinking, cowering creature had once been a dashing officer, who had fought the battles of his country and had won the palm of bravery among the host of brave men around him?

In spite of the old soldier's vigilance, we managed to hold communication with our friends. Immediately behind the Hall there was a spot where the fencing had been so carelessly erected that two of the rails could be removed without difficulty, leaving a broad gap which gave us the opportunity for many a stolen interview, though they were necessarily short, for the General's movements were erratic, and no part of the grounds were secure from his visitations.

How vividly one of these hurried meetings rises before me! It stands out clear, peaceful, and distinct amid the wild, mysterious incidents which were destined to lead up to the terrible catastrophe which has cast a shade over our lives. I can remember that as I walked through the fields the grass was damp with the rain of the morning, and the air was heavy with the smell of the fresh-turned earth. Gabrielle was waiting for me under the hawthorn tree outside the gap, and we stood hand-in-hand looking down at the long sweep of moorland, and at the broad blue channel which encircled it with its fringe of foam. Far away in the north-west the sun glinted upon the high peak of Mount Throston. From where we stood we could see the smoke of the steamers as they ploughed along the busy water-way which leads to Belfast.

"Is it not magnificent?" Gabrielle cried, clasping her hands round my arm. "Ah, John, why are we not free to sail away over these waves together, and leave all our troubles behind us on the shore?"

"And what are the troubles which you would leave behind you, dear one?" I asked. "May I not know them, and help you to bear them?"

"I have no secrets from you, John," she answered. "Our chief trouble is, as you may guess, our poor father's strange behaviour. Is it not a sad thing for all of us that a man who has played such a distinguished part in the world should skulk from one obscure corner of the country to another and should defend himself with locks and barriers as though he were a common thief flying from justice? This is a trouble, John, which it is out of your power to alleviate."

"But why does he do it, Gabrielle?" I asked.

"I cannot tell," she answered frankly. "I know only that he imagines some deadly danger to be hanging over his head, and that this danger was incurred by him during his stay in India. What its nature may be I have no more idea than you have."

"Then your brother has," I remarked. "I am sure from the way in which he spoke to me about it one day that he knows what it is, and that he looks upon it as real."

"Yes, he knows, and so does my mother," she answered; "but they have always kept it secret from me. My poor father is very excited at present Day and night he is in an agony of apprehension, but it will soon be the 5th of October, and after that he will be at peace."

"How do you know that?" I asked in surprise.

"By experience," said she gravely. "On the fifth of October these fears of his come to a crisis. For years back he has been in the habit of locking Mordaunt and myself up in our rooms on that date, so that we have no idea what occurs; but we have

always found that he has been much relieved afterwards, and has continued to be comparatively in peace until that day began to draw round again."

"Then you have only ten days or so to wait," I remarked, for September was drawing to a close. "By the way, dearest, why is it that you light up all your rooms at night?"

"You have noticed it, then?" she said. "It comes also from my father's fears. He does not like to have one dark corner in the whole house. He walks about a good deal at night, and inspects

"GABRIELLE WAS WAITING FOR ME UNDER THE HAWTHORN TREE OUTSIDE THE GAP."

everything, from the attics right down to the cellars. He has large lamps in every room and corridor, even the empty ones, and he orders the servants to light them all at dusk."

"I am rather surprised that you manage to keep your servants," I said, laughing. "The maids in these parts are a superstitious class, and their imaginations are easily excited by anything which they don't understand."

"The cook and both housemaids are from London, and are used to our ways. We pay them on a very high scale to make up for any inconvenience to which they may be put. Israel Stakes, the coachman, is the only one who comes from this part of the country, and he seems to be a stolid, honest fellow, who is not easily scared.

"Poor little girl," I exclaimed, looking down at the slim, graceful figure by my side. "This is no atmosphere for you to live in. Why will you not let me rescue you from it? Why won't you allow me to go straight and ask the General for your hand? At the worst he could only refuse."

She turned quite haggard and pale at the very thought. "For God's sake, John," she cried earnestly, 'do nothing of the kind. He would whip us all away in the dead of the night, and within a week we should be settling down again in some wilderness where we might never have a chance of seeing or hearing from you again. Besides, he never would forgive us for venturing out of the grounds."

"I don't think that he is a hardhearted man," I remarked. "I have seen a kindly look in his eyes, for all his stern face."

"He can be the kindest of fathers," she answered. "But he is terrible when opposed or thwarted. You have never seen him so, and I trust you never will. It was that strength of will and impatience of opposition which made him such a splendid officer. I assure you that in India every one thought a great deal of him. The soldiers were afraid of him, but they would have followed him anywhere."

"And had he these nervous attacks then?"

"Occasionally; but not nearly so acutely. He seems to think that the danger—whatever it may be—becomes more imminent every year. Oh, John, it is terrible to be waiting like this with a sword over our heads—and all the more terrible to me since I have no idea where the blow is to come from."

"Dear Gabrielle," I said, taking her hand and drawing her to my side, "look over all this pleasant country side and the broad blue sea. Is it not all peaceful and beautiful? In these cottages, with their red tiled roofs peeping out from the grey moor, there live none but simple, God-fearing men, who toil hard at their crofts and bear enmity to no man. Within seven miles of us is a large town, with every civilized appliance for the preservation of order. Ten miles further there is a garrison quartered, and a telegram would at any time bring down a company of soldiers. Now, I ask you, dear, in the name of common sense, what conceivable danger could threaten you in this secluded neighbourhood, with the means of help so near. You assure me that the peril is not connected with your father's health?"

"No, I am sure of that. It is true that Dr. Easterling, of Stranraer, has been over to see him once or twice, but that was merely for some small indisposition. I can assure you that the danger is not to be looked for in that direction."

"Then I can assure *you*," said I, laughing, "that there is no danger at all. It must be some strange monomania or hallucination. No other hypothesis will cover the facts."

"Would my father's monomania account for the fact of my brother's hair being turned grey and my mother wasting away to a mere shadow?"

"Undoubtedly," I answered. "The long-continued worry of the General's restlessness and irritability would produce those effects on sensitive natures."

"No, no," said she, shaking her head sadly, "I have been exposed to his restlessness and irritability, but they have had no such effect upon me. The difference between us lies in the fact that they know this awful secret and we do not."

"My dear girl," said I, "the days of family apparitions and that kind of thing are gone. Nobody is haunted nowadays, so we can put that supposition out of the question. Having done so, what remains? There is absolutely no other theory which could even be suggested. Believe me, the whole mystery is that the heat of India has been too much for your poor father's brain."

What she would have answered I cannot tell, for at that moment she gave a start as if some sound had fallen upon her ear. As she looked round apprehensively I suddenly saw her features become rigid and her eyes fixed and dilated. Following the direction of her gaze, I felt a sudden thrill of fear pass through me as I perceived a human face surveying us from behind one of the trees—a face every feature of which was distorted by the most malignant hatred and anger. Finding himself observed he stepped out and advanced towards us, when I saw that it was none other than the General himself. His beard was all a-bristle with fury, and his deep-set eyes glowed from under their heavily-veined lids with a most sinister and demoniacal brightness. [*To be continued.*]

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The Debentures bear interest at 5 per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st of January and the 1st of July in each year in sterling in London, and are redeemable at par within thirty-seven years by an accumulative Sinking Fund of 1 per cent. per annum operating by annual drawings.
The first Coupon for Six Months' Interest will be payable January 1, 1889, and the first Drawing will take place in May, 1889. The Debentures so drawn will be payable on the 1st of July following.
The Company reserves to itself the right to increase the Sinking Fund in any one or more years, on giving not less than six months' notice, prior to the period of the annual drawings.
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£94		

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The Share Capital of the Company is 9,700:000$000, or about £1,050,000, fully paid-up. The past balance-sheets of the Company show that the net income on the Macahé and Campos sections of the line has risen since the first opening in 1876-77 from 288:656$822, or £31,270, to about £52,600 in 1885-86, and £53,000 in 1886-87.
The San Antonio de Padua section has only been working since 1884-85, and the net average revenue has been about £12,900. The balance of the Company's revenue is obtained from the working of the line of river steamers.
A memorandum from the President of the Company accompanies the Prospectus, showing:—
That there has been already expended on the properties, now mortgaged for £800,000, a sum of 16,631:497$000 or £1,801,744; and that the average net annual earnings for the past three years, namely, since the completion and acquisition of the San Antonio de Padua line, have been 6,39:355$721, equal at the exchange of 24*d.* to £63,939, or at the present exchange of 26*d.* to..... £69,321
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leaving a surplus of £21,321
That the dividend on the paid-up share capital during the past two years has been at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.
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Application must be made on the annexed form, and lodged at the Office of Messrs. Louis Cohen and Sons, with a deposit of 5 per cent. on the sum applied for.
Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full. In case a less number of debentures are allotted than are applied for, the surplus of the deposit will be first applied towards payment of the amount due on allotment, and any balance will be returned to the applicant.
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Signature.....
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